

CENTURION

LAKWOOD HIGH
VOL. 22 NO. 2
NOVEMBER 30, 1990

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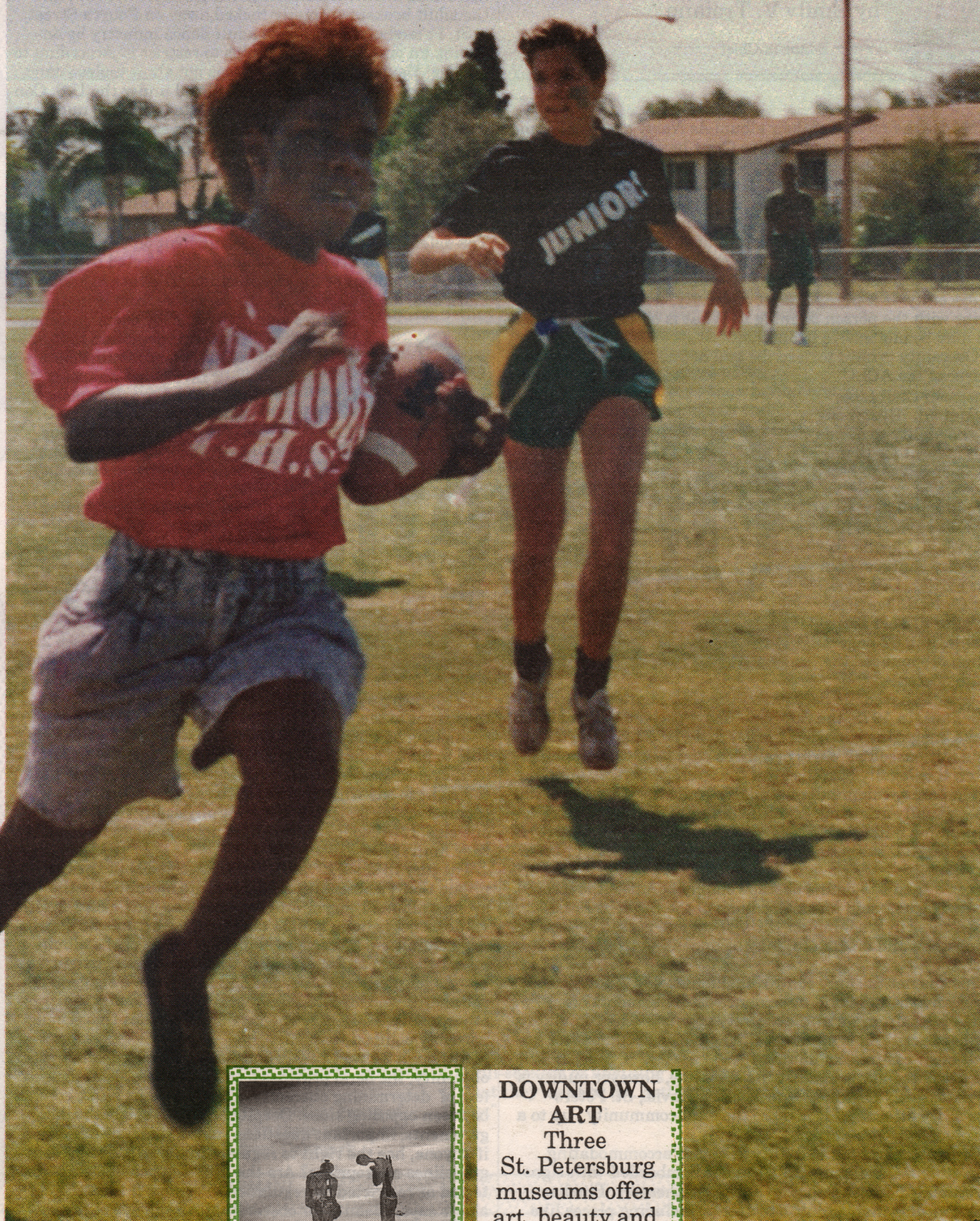
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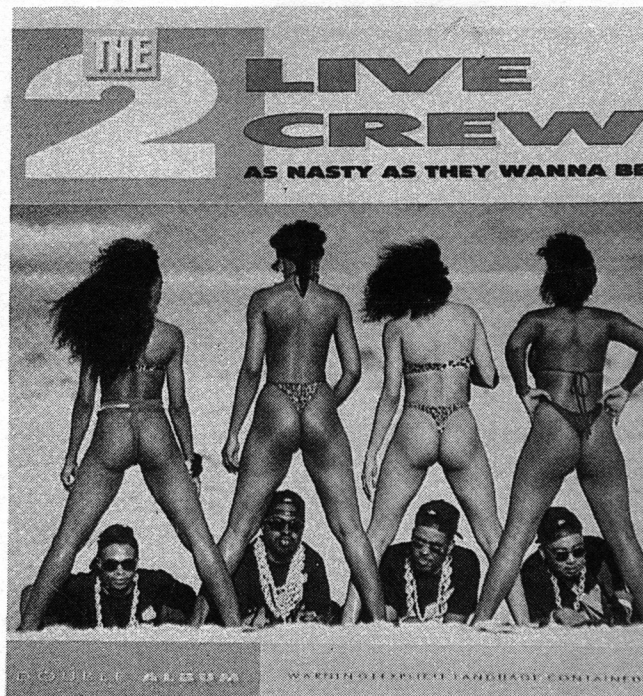
Senior Lanett Thomas and Junior Eileen Stevens battle it out at the Powder Puff game. The Juniors defeated the Seniors by a score of 6-0 in the annual Homecoming event.



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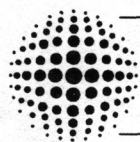
Centurion Photo - JOHN FIRMANI

❖ **Obscenity** has recently become one of the most controversial issues of today. But who knows what obscenity is? Who has the right to decide? Is it a violation of the First Amendment? Everybody, the Supreme Court, the ACLU, and 2 Live Crew all have different opinions.



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press.

-The First Amendment



by Emily V. Troiano

—Editor-in-Chief—

Since the release of their album *As Nasty As They Wanna Be*, the members of 2 Live Crew have received more attention than anyone ever expected. They have been arrested on obscenity charges. Their album is the first album in history to be labeled obscene. But more than 2 million copies have been sold, and many support the belief that, obscene or not, they have the right to say what they want.

The entire controversy could be resolved with the definition of one word: obscenity. What is obscenity?

Obscenity is a word, like art or beauty, whose meaning varies with the person defining it. What is obscene to one person may be inoffensive to another.

"Obscenity is hard to describe and define," said Gregg Weiser of the ACLU

(American Civil Liberties Union). "Everybody has the ability to decide what is right for them and themselves to listen to."

On June 10, 2 Live Crew was arrested in Hollywood, Florida on obscenity charges. Four days earlier, U.S. District Court Judge Jose Gonzalez of Fort Lauderdale, in a 62-page ruling, pronounced the album obscene.

Gonzalez based his decision on the U.S. Supreme Court guidelines. In 1973, the Supreme Court decided that material (books, magazines, movies, music) could be considered obscene if it passed all parts of a three part test. Questionable material is legally obscene (1) if the average person, applying contemporary community standards finds the whole material to be sexually arousing; (2) if the material depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct; and (3) if the material lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

"It is difficult to define obscene simply because it is a complicated issue," said Mark Goodman of the Student Press Law Center in Washington D.C.. "What one person sees as being obscene and distasteful may be appealing to someone else."

Music is not the only controversial material. Adult bookstores and theaters and nude dance establishments often come under fire from anti-obscenity activists. The community standards criteria is often used in activist's argument for an adult business-free community.

"Pure obscenity is against the state law, however nudity is not necessarily obscene," said Michael Davis, St. Petersburg's city attorney. "It is up to the local community, up to a jury, to decide standards."

Different parts of the county are more accommodating than others. Driving up US 19, one is bombarded with signs advertising "Exotic Dancers" and XXX theaters. Pinellas Park contains many adult businesses, including places like the Pussy Cat Adult Bookstore. St. Petersburg is not so os-

tentatious about its adult businesses. There are few, like the adult bookstore quietly tucked away on Fourth Street.

St. Petersburg controls its adult dance industry by enforcing an ordinance which helps to restrict it. According to Michael Davis, St. Petersburg does not allow topless dancing in bars. "Nudity per se is not illegal under the U.S. Constitution, however the city can regulate (prohibit) nudity in a establishment serving alcohol," Davis said.

St. Petersburg was the host of a 2 Live Crew concert last December at the Bayfront Center. Davis said it was monitored by the police and there were no problems.

Band members of 2 Live Crew were acquitted of the obscenity charges brought against them in Broward County. The defense attorney based his argument on the assumption that 2 Live Crew and its music is protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution. The case is a landmark one, discouraging other prosecutors from bringing charges against what they deem obscene.

The ACLU supports the notion that any charge on obscenity is unconstitutional.

"2 Live Crew was found innocent, we are very pleased," said Weiser, of the ACLU. "It is a miscarriage of justice when they are brought before a court on obscenity charges."

The ACLU is not the only supporter of the First Amendment. Students in Lakewood have their own opinions of 2 Live Crew, obscenity and freedom of speech and expression.

"If people want to see 2 Live Crew, they should go no matter what age they are,"

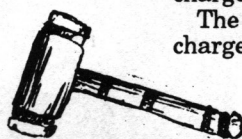
said sophomore Colleen Rappelt. "People should see what they want to see."

"As long as there is an audience to watch, they should be able to play," said freshman Scott Basso.

Eleventh grader Kifaru Williams said, "Everybody has the right to say what they want to say, the right to express themselves, as long as they're not physically hurting anyone else. It [freedom of speech] is not much of a freedom if they limit it."

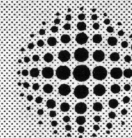
The jury in the 2 Live Crew trial decided that the Supreme Court's obscenity guidelines did not apply to the group's album. Determining whether the music has artistic value or not is not a simple task because art has no standard definition. More than 2 million copies of the album have been sold and some claim that this proves artistic value. As for political value, one of 2 Live Crew's songs insults the sheriff who arrested them in Broward County, and another insults Martinez. The jury decided that this seemed passably political to them.

Although 2 Live Crew is not the only group dealing with obscenity, the band provides a suitable example of the problem of determining obscenity. There remains much conflict between opposing sides. Despite efforts to settle the disagreements, important questions remain unanswered. Who, if anyone, has the right to regulate material? Are present guidelines appropriate? Are the American people being protected or restricted by regulation? Perhaps it is as the old adage says, "Beauty (or obscenity) is in the eye of the beholder."



DETERMINING WHAT'S Obscene

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CENTURION

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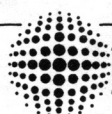
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St. Petersburg hosts three entertaining museums



free-falling

by Jonti S. Phillips

— Staff Writer —

A skydiver floats from the sky to a soft landing.

Zephyrhills Parachute Center offers instructional skydiving courses for beginners. For information call (813) 788-5591. The center is open from 9:00AM to sunset from November to March, and on weekends during all other months.

It's a gray afternoon at the Zephyrhills Parachute Center, but the sky is alive with colorful parachutes. Fifty feet above a scrubby field of trampled grass, a skydiver bends his knees and adjusts his parachute for landing.

A couple of seconds later he is running along the ground, his billowing parachute in tow. Rock music is on the wind as he scrambles to gather up the chute and cords.

His face is flushed bright red from the flight "Wild," he says, "It's a really good rush...so good."

This is only one of the hundreds of skydivers that have come to the Zephyrhills Parachute Center at the kick-off of free-falling season. The season officially opened on November 4th, after Frenchie, a regular at Z-Hills, lit the first campfire.

"When the season starts here is when Frenchie starts his first fire," said Betty Kabeller,

co-owner of the center, "He's a Canadian and he's always here. He's in charge of the fire, and he's a skydiver, too. When they have the first campfire, that's just when it all starts."

Zephyrhills Parachute Center, home to what owners call one of the "World's Best Known Drop Zones", looks like an international festival of flight during skydiving season. According to Kabeller, people come from around the world to skydive at Z-Hills.

"You're dealing with people from throughout the world because their weather is bad, and they all come down here where the weather's good," said Kabeller, "We have big airplanes and lots of people skydiving. It's just...it's exciting. It's nice to see people just come from different countries to be with us."

Kabeller gestures to a motley group of laughing skydivers, "Like these people out here right now, they're from Denmark,

Germany, France and the U.S., but these people just showed up in a day. It's so unique because they from thousands and thousands of miles away, and they are still all the same - they're skydivers. It doesn't matter whether they can speak English or not - when they're skydiving, it's the same body motions. They're all doing formations, so whether you can speak English or not, you can come here and learn to sky dive, or make your skydives better."

Scattered around the drop zone are numerous "houses". Old yellow school buses, trailers, and tents becomes home to many of the skydivers. But this afternoon the tents and trailers are deserted; most of the residents are either skydiving or gathered on blankets and chairs around the drop zone to watch.

Frank Van Gelder is headed for the airstrip. He's going to board the DC-3 plane that will take him to 12,500 feet and let him drop - for the 1,500th time. Van Gelder lives in Europe, but he returns twice a year for six weeks at a time to jump at Zephyrhills.

"It's hard to describe," says Van Gelder, "You just have to do it."

Even beginners have

the chance to "do it" at the Zephyrhills Parachute Center. According to Santos Matos, Chief Instructor, beginners can take a tandem course, which allows both the student and instructor to jump while attached to each other. When jumping tandem, even a beginner will jump from the 12,500 feet on the first day of instruction. While it may seem to be a quick lesson, skydivers agree that everyone should definitely give it a try..

"It's like floating on air - like you float on water", says Franc Bender, a veteran skydiver since 1964, "It's very, very exhilarating...and it's fun."

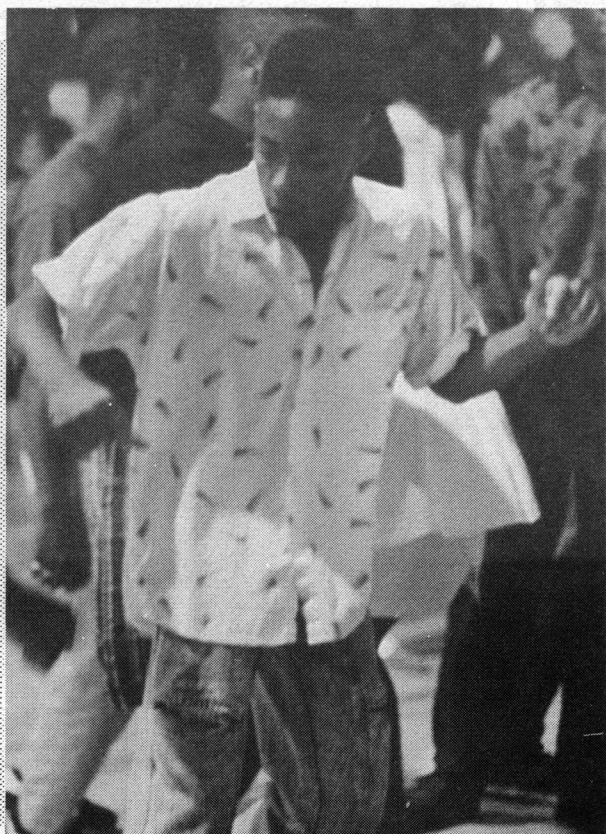
"As a tandem jumper, I recommend it highly," says Ed O'Brien, "It's a terrific feeling."

"I think they were born with that gene, you know, to go and do," says Kabeller, "They try to do everything they possibly can. They're not thrill-seekers or anything like that; they're doing what they want to do...getting everything out of each day."

❖ Any skydiver will tell you that free-falling is a thrill. The Zephyrhills Parachute Center will give you the chance to take to the wind.

Centurion Photos-JOHN FIRMANI

GYMNASIUM FLOOR GRAND OPENING

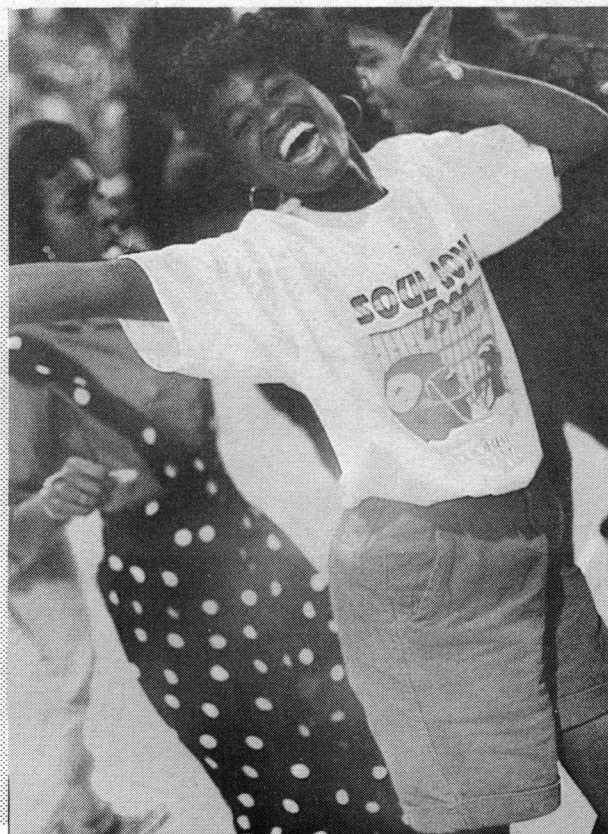


To help break in the gym floor Maurice Evans does the Hully Gully. Centurion Photo- JOHN FIRMANI



❖ Barbara Broughton, Principal, presides over the ribbon cutting ceremony held to officially open the renovated gymnasium. The ceremony was followed by a school-wide dance to "break-in" the new floor.

Centurion Photo-Paul Amodio



Keisha Delaney flashes her smile while dancing the afternoon away at the dance held Wednesday November 21, 1990. Centurion Photo- JOHN FIRMANI

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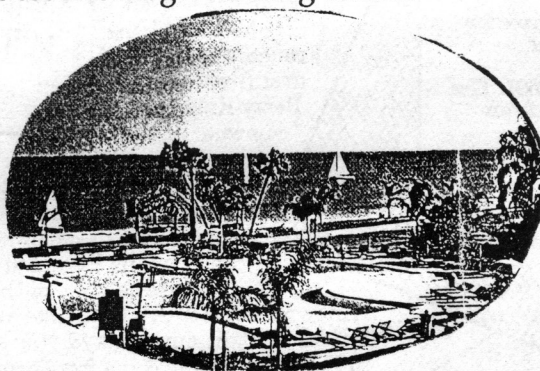
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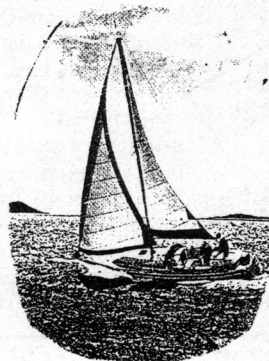
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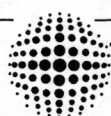


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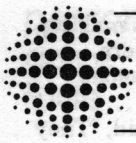
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Construction begins on CAT building

❖ In November, the long awaited construction will begin on the CAT building. The new CAT center will contain advanced science laboratories.



by Danielle C. Pinney

— Staff Writer —

In August, A-wing opened its doors to newly renovated classrooms, elaborate science laboratories, and an efficient computer system. This renovation provided 79 new students with a building specializing in computer and science technology. Next month, the final phase of construction will begin on a new facility.

The new two story building will be located behind A and B-wings, next to 16th street. The building will be labeled as the Center for Advanced Technologies (CAT) center; however it will be open to non-CAT and night school students. It will house three computer laboratories, two demonstration classrooms, a teaching auditorium and an Industrial Materials Technical Applications (IMTA) Laboratory. This lab will serve as a large working place where CAT

students can build such items as cars and robots. "IMTA is designed for research and other types of work," said Fred Ulrich, CAT program coordinator.

There will also be three science laboratories for chemistry, physics, and biology classes.

"The labs are designed so they can do their projects and research," said Ulrich.

The computer laboratories will contain a centralized teaching computer with a surrounding lab area. Students will be able to view the teacher's instructions on the computer at all times.

The contract for construction was awarded November 14 to Lincoln Construction company. They will have 270 calendar days to complete the building. The cost of the project is 2.3 million dollars. Construction began

November 14; however, the official ground breaking will be in January.

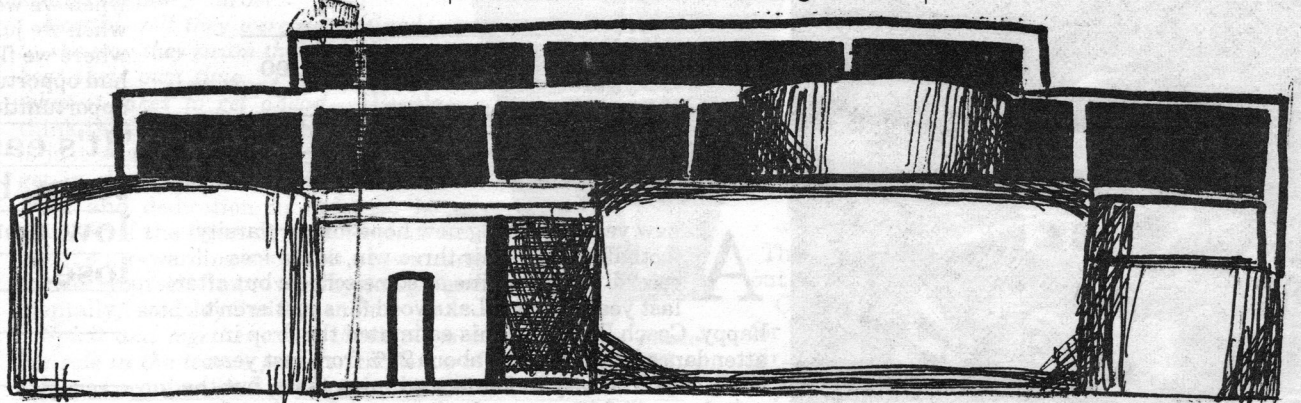
"I think it (the building) will be an enhancement. It will add to the beauty, prestige, and stature of Lakewood."

**- Fred Ulrich
CAT program
coordinator**

Once the building is finished, Ulrich hopes to add 125 new students to the program. "I think once they see what we have going, it'll show that we mean business. I think (the building) will be

an enhancement," said Ulrich, "It will add to the beauty, prestige, and stature of Lakewood."

On Monday, November 19, Astronaut James B. Irwin gave a presentation in the auditorium for the CAT students commemorating the beginning of the CAT building construction. Irwin is an Air Force colonel who was the 8th man in history to set foot on the moon. He was the lunar module pilot for the 1971 Apollo 15 mission. His presentation included a movie about his mission to the moon. Afterwards, Irwin presented Fred Ulrich with an autographed photo of his moon landing and a signed copy of his book, *Destination Moon*. "As long as we continue to explore, we continue to raise many questions," said Irwin. "I encourage students to learn fundamentals."



A simulated architectural sketch of the front of the proposed CAT building. Centurion Art-JASON GUMINSKI

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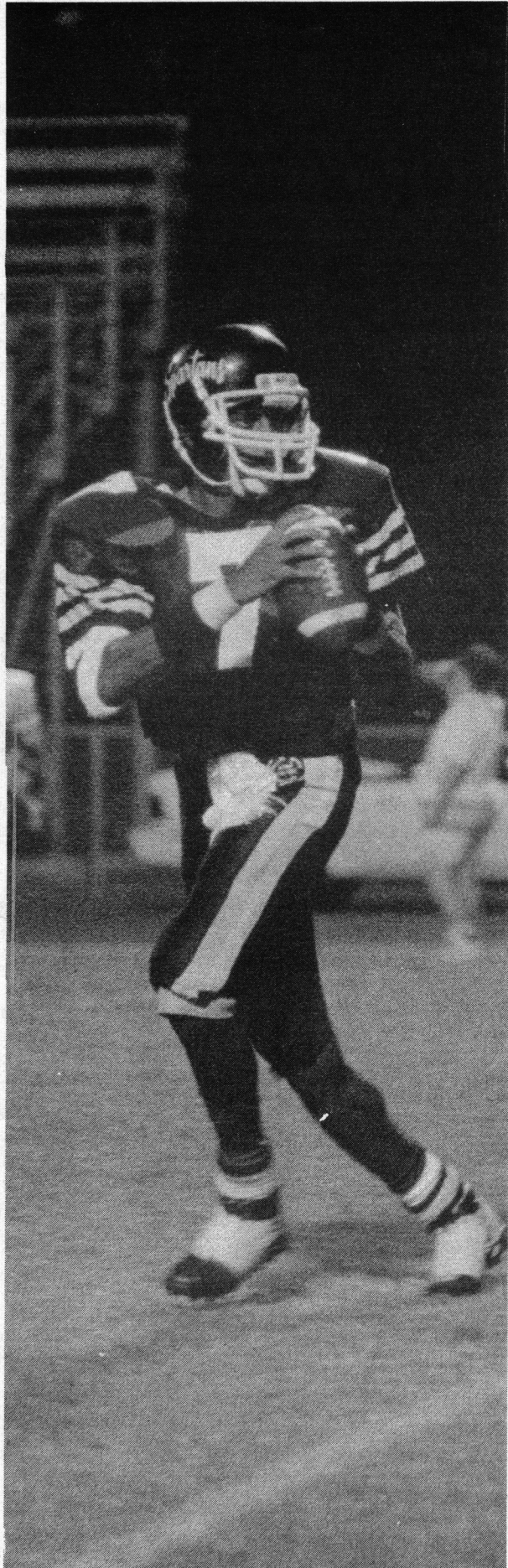
NOVEMBER 30, 1990



UPDATE

Wait 'til Next Year

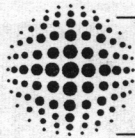
Varsity football begins preparations for next year



Trevor Mallory prepares to throw the ball to a teammate.

Centurion Photo-JOHN FIRMANI

❖ This year's varsity football team felt the wrath of defeat more than the joy of victory, but they are already working on improving for next year, both mentally, and physically.



by Paul S. Amodeo

— Staff Writer —

A new year will bring new hope for our varsity football team. Their three win, seven loss record might be fine at some schools but after last year's record Lakewood fans just aren't happy. Coach Richard Ninis estimated the drop in attendance by the fans at about 25% from last year. Ninis said "It's easy to follow a winning team, but the true fans will follow you whether you win or lose."

Next year will bring a change in divisions. We will drop from a 4A team to a 3A team. The change in classification has nothing to do with quality of the players, it is determined by the population of the school. Ninis said, "We should have probably been in the 3A division a couple of years ago."

The change in division should prove to be stimulating. "It's an opportunity for a lot of our kids to see places they have never been, and hopefully show some people in a new part of the state that we can play," said Ninis. The people we will be playing against will be much further away. Three of our district games will be at home and the other three will be at Arcadia, Wachula, and Lemon Bay.

The games next year will not be easier because of the reclassification. "Something that is very deceiving about this is that we are going down to 3A but looking in the paper right here (glancing down at the *St. Petersburg Times*) two of the teams that are in the top ten in the state are in our district next year," said Ninis. "We're not really just going to go there and say 'hey, you know we would like the trophy now,'" said Ninis. "The places we will be going to are known to be centered around high school football on Friday nights. The schools we will be playing against do not have the busing situation and tend to be very community oriented. "We going into a district where if you can survive the district or come out the district champion you stand a very good opportunity to do well in the state," according to Ninis.

As far as this year is concerned "We will never look for one like that again, and we won't have one like that again. We won't be 3 and 7 again, I can tell you that. We will correct our mistakes from this year and we will be very prepared not only physically, but mentally to compete and do well not only on the field but in the classroom," said Ninis. Ninis is not just a man of words, while other teams were just preparing for state play-offs, or reviewing the season Ninis had his team back in the weight room building up strength for next year. "I fully expect every time we go in we will win. There is no mistake there, I expect every time on the field to win."

This expectation has a great chance of becoming reality. The team members spend three days a week in the weight room and on the track until spring rolls around when they will start to train in football again. Members of the team will have to keep up a better grade point average than in the past years. Ninis said,

"I don't know of anybody on my team that is making, you know, a million dollars to play football here. They're here to get their diploma, and that comes first."

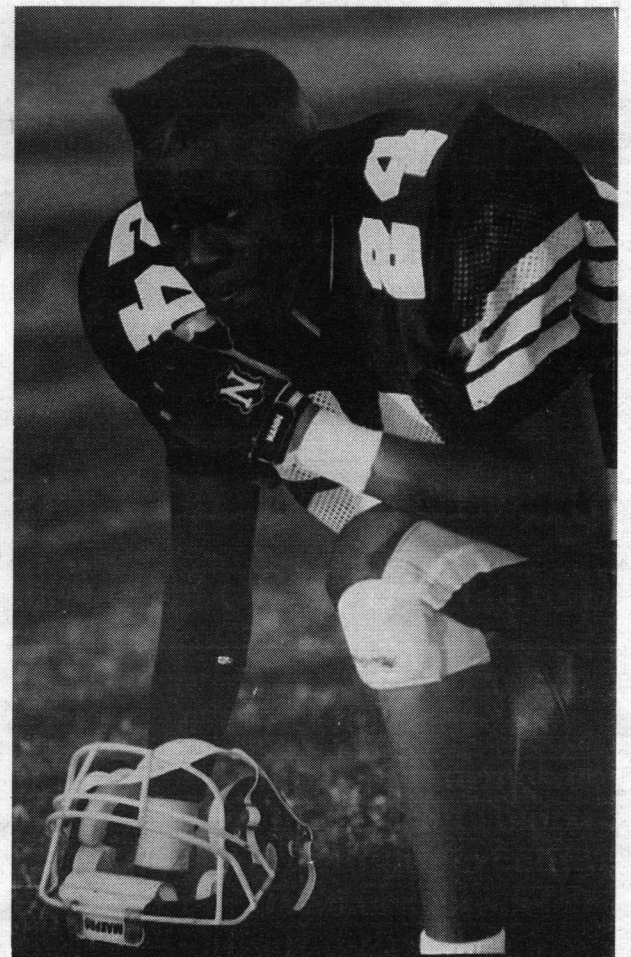
As far as team spirit is concerned Ninis said, "They are not at the top of the world right now, you know, it is very hard to come off of a three and seven year, but I think we can motivate them. This year is over and I think that you learn some valuable lessons from losing games. Not that I am into teaching that valuable lesson a lot, but you know there were times when we were just out-manned and there were times when we just beat ourselves. There were games where we flat beat, and there were games where we had opportunities that we just didn't capitalize on the opportunities," said Ninis.

"It's easy to follow a winning team, but the true fans will follow you whether you win or lose."

-Richard Ninis

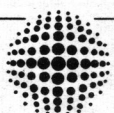
Head Coach

Next year might see some newer players including underclassman. Ninis said, "Talent is re-emerging for next year, the leadership is there, and I think the attitude is there and improving and it just going to all come back to; everything just comes back to hard work, you know?"



Xavier Thomas watches in awe as fellow teammates lose an early year game.

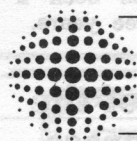
Centurion Photo-JOHN FIRMANI



OFF THE DEEP END

Student journalist spends a few days submerged in practice

❖ Swimming is often depicted as a leisurely sport, but looking at the L.H.S. swim team from a personal perspective gave me a new attitude..... This is my story.



Leon M. Tucker

— Staff Writer —

It was one late October day, Halloween eve. The wind was blowing, the trees were swaying in the breeze, in short it was cold, at least too cold for one Lakewood newspaper reporter. My first reaction to this day was there's no way in Granning's name I'm going in that water, but as I thought more, I realized it was my duty as a reporter to go in and take action. After 20 minutes of getting up my nerves, I finally jumped in and as soon as I hit the water, it dawned on me that I had absolutely no feeling in my whole body. Junior Seth Weisburg had a similar feeling to mine. He said, "When you jump in, your lungs collapse, your ears start hurting and you get pre-stages of hypothermia."

As my body adapted to the temperature I went over basic swim techniques with my personal trainer Siouxsie Fentress. Afterwards I was ready to swim with the real guys. My first warm-up was the 400 free-style. "First group go!" yells assistant coach Brent Gaskill and we're off. My body was into it, my mind was into it, I felt great....Until the first half of the first lap. My legs froze, and I started to submerge, but during all of this grueling pain I chanted to myself, "IT'S FOR THE PAPER, IT'S FOR THE PAPER."

Finally I made it through two laps and sadly to say, I was bushed. Who'd ever think being a swimmer was so hard?

Fentress said after she swam a 100 yard breast stroke "Such immense pain, but it's worth it."

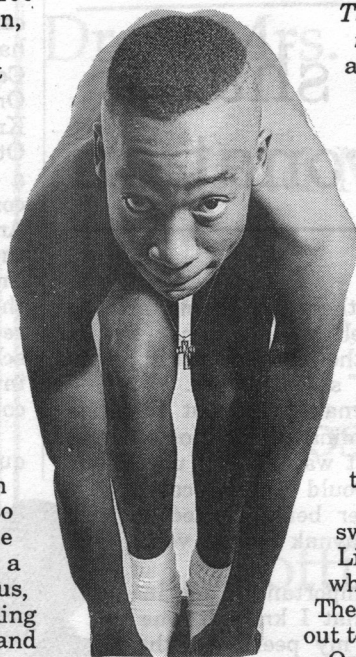
Fentress is one of the teams most dedicated swimmers. She says "swimming is hard work. Improvement means putting all your effort into daily work-outs and really pushing yourself at the meets. I also think it's important to be close, although swimming is largely an individual effort, having a team with a lot of spirit really boosts moral and makes everyone swim that much harder."

I could tell they were determined by the way they swam their hardest to beat their own time. I think that's what it takes to get ahead. "People think that swimming on the swim team is just a way to get a tan and a way to get in shape but it takes a lot of time work and dedication in order to be a member of the team. It may be vigorous, but it's a rewarding sport. It's rewarding to see yourself improve physically and mentally," said Joy Smith, senior.

Spirit and togetherness I think plays a big role in the team's game. Evidence of this was acquired by Kris Bowen, sophomore,

"I feel that as a whole, some of our teammates don't take practice seriously, but the effort is there. Through the excellent guidance of Mr. Gaskill and Mrs. Cullen we have done good this year."

-Jason Myerson
senior



Centurion Photo-MARK SMITH

and "Crusty" Rusty Swansburg, junior, by chanting "U CAN'T TOUCH THIS!" Lloyd Everett senior says "The spirit of Julio Ochoa, Brian Seibert, Seth Weisburg and me is unbelievable, we went wild at conference."

The endurance of the team led me to think the team was not intimidated by competition, Everett also said after an exhausting 200 medley relay "It wasn't hard." Denise Christensen, junior, said after the 400 free-style relay "I feel energetic and full of adrenalin." Myerson who swam the grueling 500 free style said, "It's equivalent to 20 laps, it's extremely exhausting, you use every muscle in your entire body. It's like running a mile and holding your breath."

Being tired is all part of the sport of swimming, I should know. Directly after sophomore Tim Kiley swam the 500 yard freestyle. "How do you feel?" And he replied in an exhausted fashion "Hold on, let me catch my breath. I'm delirious, my head is throbbing like I don't know what."

The team appears to enjoy themselves, assistant coach Gaskill says "they have fun, we all have a good time."

On November 10, 1990 the district competition for swimming took place at North Shore pool.

Libby Cullen, head coach, said, "The kids that set goals, who want to go to districts, are the ones who do the best. There fantastic kids to work with, we work our problems out together. I encourage them to go further."

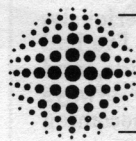
On Saturday November 17, 1990 the state competition for swimming took place in Orlando. The events were the girls 200 free style relay consisting of C. Cullen, S. Fentress, A. Phyle, and M. Anderson took 10th place (A new school record). M. Anderson placed 12th in the 50 free style (Life time best). L. Everett placed 17th in the 100 breast stroke and 26th in the 100 butterfly stroke (L.B.). The boys 200 medley relay team consisting of J. Ochoa, J. Rubinsky, C. Everett, and K. Bowen placed 20th. (L.B. for all) C. Cullen placed 22nd in the 100 freestyle and 23rd in the 50 freestyle. (L.B.). J. Rubinsky placed 25th in the 100 breast and the girls 200 medley relay consisting of C. Cullen, S. Fentress, A. Phyle, and M. Anderson placed 25th.

By practicing with the team and attending swim meets I see now that swimming isn't all play. It takes a lot of time work and dedication. But yet still they always find time to have fun.

COMPLICATIONS ON THE COURT

Ladies' basketball adjusts to a new coach, new gym, and new players

❖ The girls' basketball teams must adjust to a variety of new modifications within the program to pull off a winning season. In 1991 they rise to the challenge.



by Grieta Patenaude

— Staff Writer —

For the last two years Lakewood's girls basketball team has had winning seasons. A tradition of success has pulled the program forward. The 1990-91 season has been filled with unexpected problems thus far. Many changes occurred- two new coaches, a wooden gym floor, and a variety of young players.

The conclusion of the 1990 basketball season ended coaching for Larry West. The former girls' varsity coach chose to work on his Master's degree. Paul Goodland trained with the girls over the summer, but resigned from the coaching position after accepting another job outside of teaching. Mike Hale took on the job. "He's great and full of energy", says Elizabeth Collins, Activity Director. In 1985, Hale coached Lakewood's J.V. girls team. His other experiences include five years at Bay Point Middle and one year at Safety Harbor Middle. "He is a back to the basics man", said Collins.

"We have a lot to learn from him and he has a lot to learn from us, but it's a workable situation", says Flora Dowdell, Junior. "Saturday we just spent an hour showing him our plays from last year", said Dowdell.

"For twenty-five years students have been playing on a cement floor", said Barbara Broughton, principal. "A soft wooden floor is an amazing improvement", said Collins on the \$80,000 project. The team is really

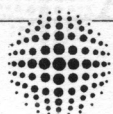
happy with the gym. "I fell and hurt my knee on it, but it's pretty neat", said Dowdell. By the middle of the season the team will be engrossed in the games and not the dilemma of missing two days of practice.

The Stentorian announces every day that the girls basketball program is looking for J.V. and varsity players. There are no seniors returning to play this year. "This is a young team with lots of talent this year and more for the next", said Hale. To spark interest in ladies athletics, "you need to issue uniforms and make a roster", said Collins. Hale says "understanding circumstances the turn out has been pretty well. The new gym helped out". Attendance hit a depressing low of five players for both J.V. and varsity combined, when having practiced at Bay Point, but since using the gym it has jumped to 14 girls. One circumstance affecting the turn out is that the other sports- volleyball, swimming, and cross country- are still in season.

Since practice began, basketball has

transformed from a questionable program to a strong one. Freshmen Kajule Laskett and Michelle Woods both agree that there is no reason to not come out. Laskett says "I want to learn how to play to prove something to myself. I can do it". Woods pointed out, "if I can be taught, so can you". Sophomore Gylaunda Henderson says "I expect to achieve, play some point guard, and shoot thirty baskets per game".

A small team has the greater ability to form a family unit. "Eight or nine girls is all I want to play", says Hale. having a small team does not change his plans for offense or defense. "I make people play different positions in practice". This a reserve for when players have off-days and limited skills. "I take what skills I see and displace them; if I see a weakness I hide it". Five players make a team. Hale says, "It is important to show team dedication". The pre-season threat of merging the J.V. and varsity has transformed to produce two distinctive teams.



Homecoming Royalty

Queen and king share feelings after coronation

❖ On Friday, October 19, Sherilynn Kraynak and Josh Rubinsky were chosen as the 25th Homecoming queen and first Homecoming king. This is what it means to them.

by Cindi Letter

Staff Writer

The lights were dimmed and everyone gathered as Sherilynn Kraynak and Josh Rubinsky joined hands for the 1990 Homecoming queen and king dance. For many, the king and queen symbolize glamour and school spirit. What does it mean to Sheri and Josh?

"I think the idea of a Homecoming queen was created to represent the student body and school as a whole. She shouldn't be a sex symbol. It's someone who has served the school well," said Kraynak. "The representation should come from her activities. If it was based on looks or popularity alone, I don't think I would have gotten it."

"It means a lot to me inside, it makes you feel special to be chosen among all the other people," said Rubinsky. "I was chosen to start a tradition for as long as Lakewood exists."

Homecoming is a time of year when old alumni return to recapture their high school memories. For others memories are being formed. According to Sharon Jacob (Homecoming organizer), the queen and king should be involved in school activities and maintain a good grade point average. "The kids pick the person they want to represent them. The person should be a positive role model for students," said Jacob.

Perhaps it was foreshadowing that, during the rehearsal ceremony, Kraynak and Ryan Sulte (her escort) were asked by Adam Ball to demonstrate where the queen would walk. The next evening Kraynak and Sulte made the same walk, this time for real. The 25th Homecoming queen from Lakewood High School is Sherilynn Kraynak.

Most people picture the queen as an object of beauty and popularity. Kraynak feels that being good looking does not make a Homecoming queen.

"I think beauty is the least important factor. The most important quality in a queen is her ability to get

along with others and being able to present herself well, whether she is representing the school or just in day to day activities," said Kraynak.

When Kraynak found out that she had been nominated for Homecoming she thought it was kind of unrealistic that she would make court. However, after being elected to the court, Kraynak took it very seriously.

"It's very important to me in the respect that I know it was voted on by my peers not the teachers. And that in itself creates an overwhelming feeling. I'd rather not consider it a popularity contest. I don't consider myself popular, but it is something I'm going to tell my kids about," said Kraynak.

There is a great amount of tradition associated with Homecoming and each year a different queen is chosen. This person will be remembered for years to come and respected by members of the senior class.

"I felt like part of the tradition, especially since it's the 25th anniversary of Lakewood High School. It was a celebration for the school and in a sense it was a celebration for me. The idea that this will go down in history

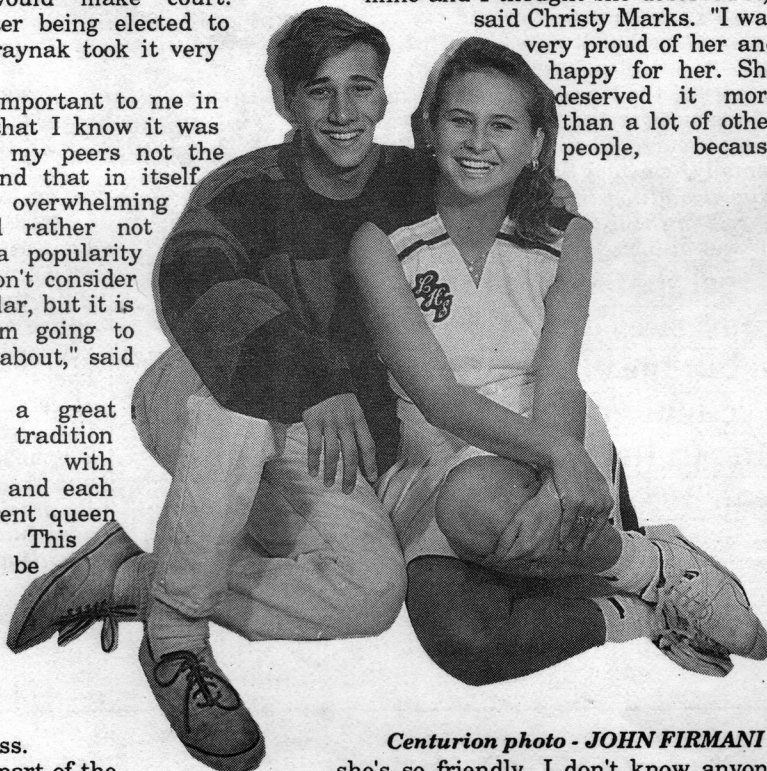
"I felt like part of the tradition, especially since it's the 25th anniversary edition of Lakewood High School. It was a celebration for the school and in a sense it was a celebration for me. The idea that this will go down in the history books is really neat."
-Sherilyn Kraynak

books is really neat," said Kraynak.

Considering the definition of what a Homecoming queen represents, Kraynak fits well in the aspect of school involvement. Cheerleading has been a part of Kraynak's entire high school

career, and for the last two years, she has been varsity captain. The Centurion newspaper staff and Alpha Omega yearbook are others where Kraynak devotes her time and energy. Other organizations the queen has been a part of are the Current Issues committee, Future Educators of America, Diocesan Youth Council, and the Youth Leadership Team at Blessed Trinity. Kraynak is also a member of the National Honor Society, which requires a 3.6 G.P.A. throughout high school. Not only is Kraynak's involvement strong, but her friends consider her outgoing and fun.

"I nominated Sheri for Homecoming queen because she is a good friend of mine and I thought she deserved it," said Christy Marks. "I was very proud of her and happy for her. She deserved it more than a lot of other people, because



Centurion photo - JOHN FIRMANI

she's so friendly. I don't know anyone that hates Sheri."

"One of my best qualities is that I don't get mad at people easy. I tend to like everyone and find one good quality in all," said Kraynak.

After Kraynak won, she received information on Air American Homecoming Queen Pageant (Eleventh Annual Tuition Scholarship Pageant). She plans to enter and represent Lakewood High School.

Kraynak's parents were ecstatic when they found out that she had won. Her mother was informed just moments before the announcement.

According to the definition of a Homecoming queen by Ms. Jacob, Kraynak seems to fit the role well.

"Ever since I was really little, the idea of being crowned Homecoming queen has always impressed me, and I think it's been one of the most prestigious honors I've been awarded at Lakewood," said Kraynak.

Homecoming is a time for old traditions, but on Friday October 19, 1990 Josh Rubinsky began a new tradition that will remain at Lakewood for years to come. Rubinsky was elected the 1st Homecoming king of Lakewood.

The ideal king should possess the same qualities as the queen: involvement in school activities, a required G.P.A., and personal qualities that allow him to be elected.

"I think the king of the school should express leadership, be easy to talk to, someone to count on for help, and a person that gets along with everyone."

Rubinsky is involved quite a lot in school activities. As a member of the Varsity swim team, Rubinsky has won numerous awards. He has been a member of S.A.D.D. for three years.

"I think the king of the school should express leadership, be easy to talk to, someone to count on for help, and a person that gets along with everyone."

-Josh Rubinsky

Also, he was a member of Octagon, while it existed, and is presently involved in Interact. Rubinsky was chosen on the Bi-Racial Committee and is President of United Synagogue Youth. He enjoys all competitive sports.

Was it coincidental that Josh Rubinsky was Sheri Kraynak's escort on stage a few days before? "It felt weird because I was the one that escorted her on to the stage. I've been really good friends with Sheri since the 6th grade and it was special that both of us won, being as good of friends as we are," said Rubinsky.

Many people feel that Homecoming queen and king are a popularity contest. After being asked what he thought, Rubinsky responded, "Not totally, there's a lot of people I don't know. I think my activities helped a lot, I try to be friends with everybody."

Rubinsky feels that his best quality is that he is extremely easy to get along with and that he easily makes new friends.

"The craziest thing that happened that night was staying up all night to go to a swim meet at 7 a.m. We all fell asleep on Rhett Jansen's car."

Throughout his nomination, Rubinsky's parents were supportive. As he departed for the dance, his parents told him if he won king to give them a call. After a while, they started to think, "Well, Josh must not have won." Then, not a moment later, the phone rang and Rubinsky announced to his parents that he was the first Homecoming king of Lakewood High School. They were really happy for him, and proud of their son.

"At first, I didn't really take it seriously, but when people told me, Josh, you might win, I started to take it semi-seriously," said Rubinsky.

Now, Rubinsky takes it very seriously. "It will be one of the best times I've had at high school. I'll tell my kids, and grandkids about it. I will always remember being named 1st Homecoming king."

Both the queen and king feel this is an experience and honor they will never forget. As they move on in their lives, they may always look back and cherish their high school memories. For many years to come Kraynak and Rubinsky will remember themselves as the 25th Homecoming queen and 1st Homecoming king of Lakewood High School.

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Unknown to most students, Lakewood High School offers free counseling to all students by licensed professionals. Social worker John J. Rapisardi and school psychologist Karen Misja are representatives of the Student Services division of the Pinellas County School Board and are available to all students at any time for counseling and consultation.

There are no requirements needed for counseling; any student with a conflict or problem may ask for counseling assistance. All consultations are strictly confidential, and students may request conferences with one or both of the professionals.

Karen Misja and John J. Rapisardi visit Lakewood every Tuesday. At any other time, they can be reached by office administrators for immediate consultation.

To request a conference with the school social worker or psychologist, leave your name and grade with Bonnie Snider in the front office. All inquiries and consultations are kept confidential.

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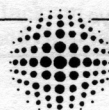


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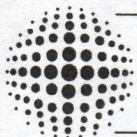
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SCHOOL SPIRIT

Definition of spirit brings varied responses

❖ The core of Lakewood is made up of many different types of people, all having their own impressions of school spirit. Everyone seems to have differing opinions on what molds our school, and what the glue is that keeps it together.



by Christy A. Marks

— Staff Writer —

The sky turns a dusky grey, sprinkled generously with shades of pink, lavender, and orange, as the sun sets into the horizon. The air becomes cooler as the night falls, and along with the night comes the people. Lots of people. For this is Friday night, and tonight is the football game. The stadium lights illuminate the entire field as the team runs out in their black and gold. But not that many people are here to observe the team. The screaming dies out as quickly as it began, and the fans that did decide to show up turn around and socialize, discussing the night's promising party spots. The football game is forgotten as conversation increases, the spirit dwindles after every touchdown. Spirit means different things to different people, so it is difficult to say exactly what it is. However, students have some very unique ways of displaying it. Some don't even care. But from homecoming week activities to basketball games, students will show their spirit in any way they can, if they have the interest.

❖ Senior, Scott Riggs says, "I show my school spirit by getting involved in school activities. School spirit is good because it creates a better, more motivated atmosphere." Scott is an honor student and says, "I think Lakewood has a lot of spirit. I think school spirit is the display of a good attitude during school and in activities."

❖ Carrie Nicks is involved in the Center for Advanced Technology (CAT) here at Lakewood. She is also a member of the volleyball team, and she says, "School spirit is

being proud of your school and your grade." She feels that some of the less prominent sports get less publicity here, because they are not as big as football. "There's a lot of spirit here, especially for football, but there's not that much for volleyball." However, Carrie says, "Everyone and anyone can show their spirit if they want to, but most of the CAT people and outsiders don't because they think they're above that."

❖ Having school spirit comes naturally to junior Jeanne Crepeau. "I show it by trying to put that extra little bit of effort into my school work and the activities that I am a part of." Jeanne feels that Lakewood has a lot of school spirit, "especially its junior class, which won the powder puff game 6 to 0." Obviously, Jeanne has a great deal of pride in her class. "School spirit is the pride a person feels and shows for his school by striving for excellence in academics, athletics, and campus clubs. School spirit benefits Lakewood. Our school has received upgraded academic and athletic facilities because students, teachers, and parents care."

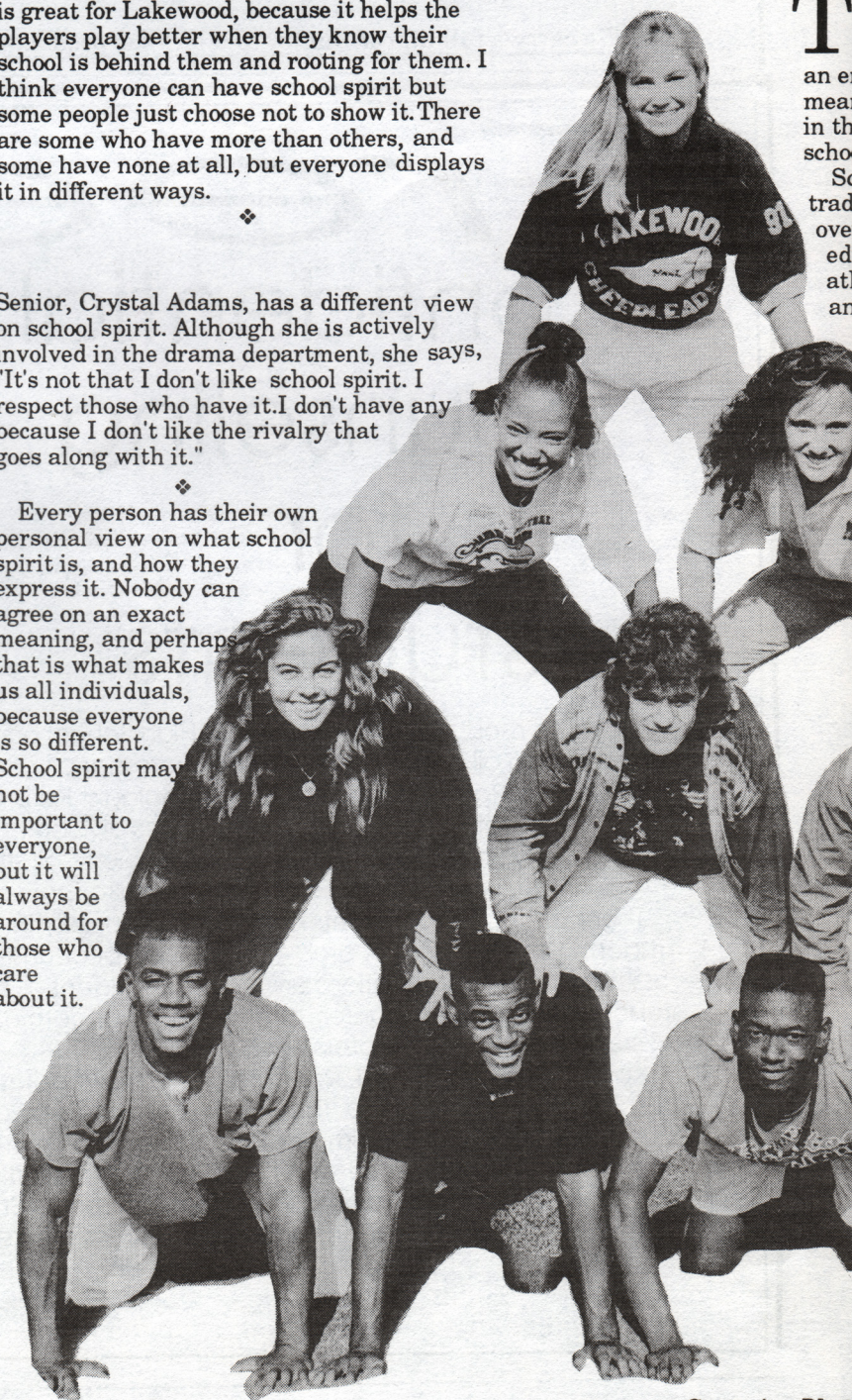
❖ Zach Bennett is a senior at Lakewood. He enjoys listening to reggae music, such as Bob Marley. He also works at Great Explorations, but he finds time to express his spirit in many ways. "School spirit is a complete and total oneness with your school expressed enthusiastically." He avidly participated in the homecoming week activities, and attends Lakewood's football games. "I show my spirit by backing up the team at games, yelling during assemblies, and being involved with things that directly relate to the school's well-being. As a whole, Lakewood has school spirit, but the seniors are lacking in it." Zach feels that school spirit is essential. "School spirit helps form a positive unity among LHS students. School spirit is the only thing we have in common." Zach believes that school spirit is not always expressed directly. "I see certain cliques at the games who go there just to get wasted. That sort of p-----s me off. Some people don't think it's cool to have school spirit."

❖ The life of a cheerleader revolves around school spirit. Cheerleading is more than fancy stunts and brilliant dance moves. One of a cheerleader's main responsibilities is to excite the crowd at school functions and get them interested. This is one of Kari Goecker's duties as a varsity cheerleader. "I think school spirit is basically being interested in the school. Participating in school dress-up days, going to school sports events to support the

athletes, and wearing spirit ribbons all are ways that school spirit can be expressed. I think Lakewood has a lot more spirit this year than they have had in the past, but we could use a lot more of it. I think school spirit is great for Lakewood, because it helps the players play better when they know their school is behind them and rooting for them. I think everyone can have school spirit but some people just choose not to show it. There are some who have more than others, and some have none at all, but everyone displays it in different ways.

❖ Senior, Crystal Adams, has a different view on school spirit. Although she is actively involved in the drama department, she says, "It's not that I don't like school spirit. I respect those who have it. I don't have any because I don't like the rivalry that goes along with it."

❖ Every person has their own personal view on what school spirit is, and how they express it. Nobody can agree on an exact meaning, and perhaps that is what makes us all individuals, because everyone is so different. School spirit may not be important to everyone, but it will always be around for those who care about it.



Centurion Photo

What is it? (and do we have any?)

Changing times alter school spirit

by Sherilynn Kraynak

— Staff Writer —

❖ There are many definitions of school spirit; all different and based on personal interpretation. The expression of spirit differs from year to year. What is spirit like in the 1990's?

definition of school spirit cannot be found in a standard American dictionary, or explained in an encyclopedia, but the concept does exist somewhere in the minds and hearts of avid supporters.

School spirit may be defined as an attitude of pride in school and participation in school activities and clubs, students supporting school events, and enjoyment within the school environment are all elements of school spirit.

"School spirit is showing your support with everything that goes on in the school," said sophomore, Stephanie Lynn. "That includes

going to all games and cheering them on and wearing school colors."

"It's (school spirit) an attitude, belief, or willingness to be involved - whether you're a member of cheerleading, LAMP, or band. It's getting involved for the right reasons," said Richard Ninis, Intervention Center director. "When you're willing to work for something, extra things, it makes the school a higher degree of excellence."

What ever one's definition of school spirit may be, people feel that the amount of school spirit present has dwindled. Reasons for this include: lack of space for students to congregate, increased school security, and losing athletic seasons.

Fifteen years ago, school spirit thrived among students and teachers in the crowded halls of Lakewood High School. Back then, school spirit was not only class rivalries, fans cheering on a winning athletic team, or sport participation, but also an overwhelming appreciation for education.

"A very large majority of students were involved in school activities- especially after school activities," said Denise St. Clair, science teacher and graduate of

Lakewood High School. "We didn't have a winning football team, but we were still spirited. We had a lot of enthusiasm for athletics, and our band was very influential because they were doing well in competition."

"When my sons went here, there was much more school spirit," said Judith Buhrow, principal's secretary. "Everybody went to all the events. That was the

'thing' to do then, they (students) all went and supported their high school."

"Along with the spirit, there was a silent emphasis that grades and learning were important," said St. Clair.

Have changing times and decades brought a change in school spirit?

"I don't think the concept of school spirit has changed, the concept in which students have to exhibit it has. There's no where for you (students) to go," said Richard Ninis. "The availability of space to just 'get together' has changed."

"I see the direction (of school spirit) changing from an overall positive 'pride' to one of limited or specific areas of interest," said St. Clair. "There's a lot of spirit here but it's so factioned. This group only cheers for this group, and that group only cheers for that group. It's very specific rather than a 'happy to be here' type thing."

Friday night football games are one example of student congregation on school property to socialize. The spirit of the game dwindles as the stadium stands become a "hot-spot" for discussing the night's activities and no longer a place to display spirit by rooting the team on to victory.

"The fact that games are a stepping stone to what else is going to happen that night is not unique to Lakewood," said Ninis.

Some feel that if Friday night football games produced victories, the overall attitude towards the football team would be more positive and school spirit would thrive among supporters and students.

"We don't have school spirit compared to years past - due to lack of athletic talent," said senior, David Jackson.

The Lakewood Spartans

football team is now closing its fall season with a 3 win, 7 loss record.

"I feel that people have more spirit if they have a winning team," said Regan Garnett, junior. "I remember my freshmen year when our varsity football team went undefeated- I never missed a game. Now

"I see the direction (of school spirit) changing from an overall positive 'pride', to one of limited or specific areas of interest."

-Denise St. Clair

I'm lucky if I've gone to three or four. I guess that winning feeling just pepped us up."

Although, students feel strongly about the importance of school spirit, not all clubs, activities, and athletics gain the support they need.

"Nobody wants to play a game in front of empty stands. You always get up for a game and play better, when everyone's there and cheering," said Pat Stevens, wide receiver - LHS football.

"School spirit is very important. It helps get everyone warmed up for a big event," said Freshmen, Claire Beckford.

An administrator's presence at school activities can both hinder and accent school spirit. Administrators wandering amongst the student body at pep assemblies and football games offers some assurance that the administration is proud of Lakewood High School and its students, but often their presence does not allow students to express their spirit in the fashion they would like to.

"At every football game, wrestling match, and every other event I've been to there has always been an administrator there supporting them," said Pat Stevens.

"I think the administrative team that we have now are very spirited," said Ninis.

"Unfortunately," said English teacher, Gina Petrucci, "because of the lack of cooperative interaction, events get out of hand and administrators become 'policemen' at events. Some of the spirit of the event is dampened."

A differing opinion is expressed by Sophomore, Stephanie Lynn. "If we didn't have bad people that cause trouble, I don't think any of the administrators would participate (in activities) if they didn't have to."

"They take away all of our good cheers in the stands," comments Jackson. These cheers tend to contain profane language and are not examples of good sportsmanship between rival schools.

How one may display spirit is a matter of individual preference. Many feel involvement in school activities is essential to demonstrating "proper" school spirit, also allowing for enjoyment in education.

"If you don't get involved in school activities, how are you supposed to have fun at your school?" said Senior, Shawn Lacey.

School spirit, to be purposeful, must be just that-- universal throughout the school. "It should not be reserved for just football or basketball players, cheerleaders, LAMP members, and choir participants," said Ninis, "it cannot just be variety of students, it has to be everybody to be successful."

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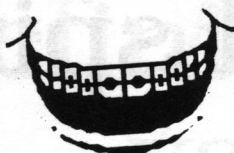


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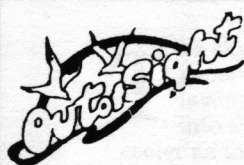


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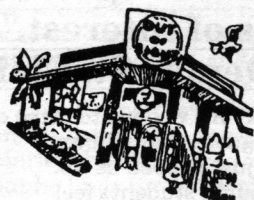
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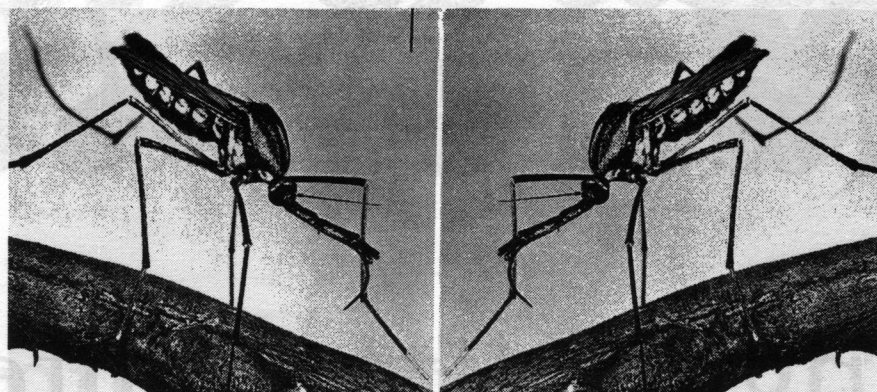
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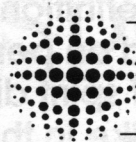
BLOOD SUCKERS

Encephalitis Causes Alarm



Some mosquitos may transmit encephalitis through their bite. Female mosquitos suck blood in order to fertilize their eggs.

Centurion photo-JOHN FIRMANI



by Peter Klinkenberg

Staff Writer

They buzz in your ears. They suck your blood in order to fertilize their eggs. They leave you with an irritating itch and possibly a deadly disease. They are mosquitoes, and they may be carrying encephalitis.

Encephalitis can be a dangerous disease. Technically, the disease swells the brain, but that is a serious case. An average healthy teenager usually gets symptoms more like that of the flu, and the disease does not damage the body permanently.

Mosquitoes are well known to Floridians. In Florida, there are some 76 species of mosquitoes, and an estimated 27 species in Pinellas county.

However, only one species carries encephalitis. The species *Culex nigritalis*, has no common name. It is a scarce mosquito, that only appears at dusk and dawn. The mosquito is small and black, and when it bites, there is no wound or itching.

The disease itself is transmitted to people in the bite of the mosquito. Only female mosquitoes "bite" people and suck their blood. They do this to fertilize their eggs. The females lay their eggs in water. The eggs hatch into larva. The larva are small and remain in the water all through this stage. The larva must come to the surface to breath in air.

Encephalitis is a disease that effects humans in a harmful way only. Birds may carry the disease, but the virus never effects them. Other animals do not catch encephalitis either. Mosquitoes don't catch the disease; they only transmit it.

Usually encephalitis only has effects on elderly, young, and people with weakened immune systems.

The St. Petersburg Mosquito Control has taken action over the insects. However, they must be sure of the population of the given area they want exterminate mosquitos. To rid an area of adult mosquitos, they fog a chemical with a special truck. To ensure of killing mosquitos only, the chemical is sprayed in a mist so fine it only effects the insect. This method of removal is only temporary, due to the fact that the larva will soon grow to replace killed adults. Therefore, Mosquito Control

has developed a way of eliminating the larva. This is with a natural material called altocid. Altocid occurs in ponds and streams in Florida naturally, but only a little is present. Mosquito Control has the material made for them. They drop the matter with sand into marshes, ponds, lakes, and streams. The mosquito larva eat the material. This causes the mosquito's exoskeletons growth to stunt, making them unable to hatch into adults. This method of extermination is more long term.

Mosquitos are important to the enviroment. Among other things, they are food to other creatures. Adult mosquitos are eaten by dragon flies, small birds, bats, and a variety of other insects. The larva, living in water, including dragon fly nymphs, crawdads, and many aquatic insects.

Mosquitos are important to the environment. Among other things, they are food to other creatures. Adult mosquitos are eaten by dragon flies, small birds, bats, and a variety of other insects. The mosquito larva living in the water provide a meal for an abundance of animals, including dragon flies, crawdads, many aquatic insects, and a small, aquatic fish called the mosquito fish. The Mosquito Control sometimes uses the fish as a natural process to destroy the larva, by digging a series of ditches that fill with water.



A mosquito larva which lives in water. Many creatures eat this insect. Centurion Art-JASON GUMINSKI

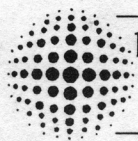
The mosquitos use the ditch to breed and the ditches are filled with mosquito fish, which eat most of the larva.

Fortunatley, the encephalitis scare seems to be over. The last two cold fronts wiped them out.



ON THE BRINK OF D · E · A · T · H

Lake Maggiore must overcome multiple pollution problems or die



by Steve DesChenes

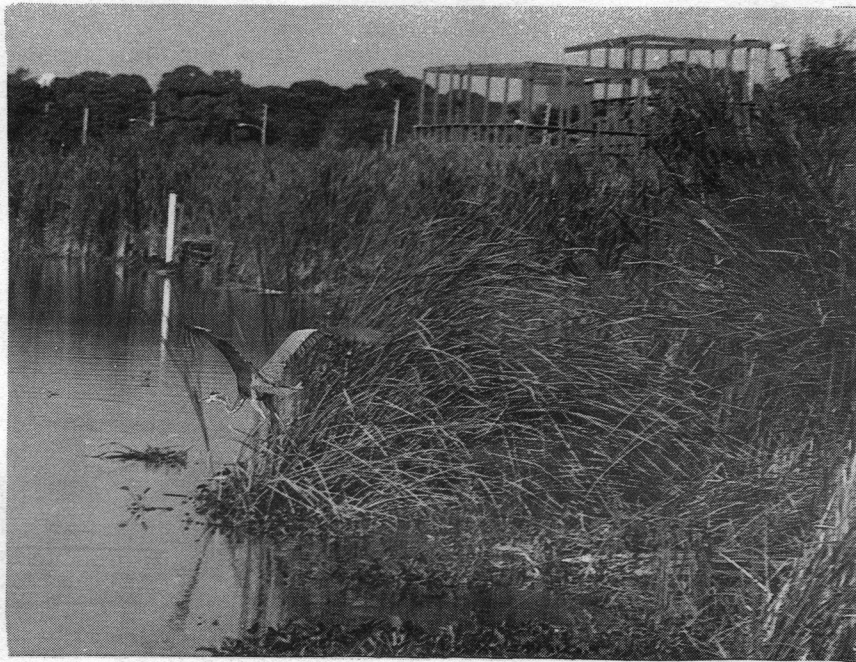
Staff Writer

❖ Lake Maggiore, a once pristine lake is now beginning to die because of high pollution levels and over abundant plant life that has accumulated over the past few decades.

Lake Maggiore was once a beautiful, thriving lake where people used to be able to swim, fish and play just a few short decades ago. Today, the lake is so polluted that all use of the lake is prohibited due to decades of pollution, the over abundance of bacteria, and the over growth of hyacinths and cattails. However, most people ignore the warnings.

Lake Maggiore covers about 375 acres and is fed by six freshwater springs and several storm sewers. Lake Maggiore was once connected to Tampa Bay by Salt Creek.

The pollution has killed off half of the lake's fish population consisting of Bluegill, Sunfish and Large-Mouth Bass, along with some saltwater species which include Snook and



This is a familiar scene along the lake's shore. The presence of this many cattails and water hyacinths spells trouble for the lake. The weeds also provide homes for some of the lake's wildlife.

Centurion Photo-MARK SMITH

Redfish according to The Fish and Wildlife Commission. The remaining fish are so contaminated that they are unfit for human consumption.

The primary problem is storm-water runoff containing oil, gasoline, pesticides, herbicide and nutrient rich fertilizers from nearby homes and other developments.

The oil and gasoline from ninth street and other nearby roads washes into storm drains and becomes storm-water runoff which eventually ends up in the lake whether it does or doesn't rain.

The fertilizers wash into the lake from local neighborhoods and businesses along with pesticides and herbicides used to battle insects and the over abundant plant life on the lake.

The abundance of fertilizers in the lake has caused algae blooms and waterweeds such as hyacinths and cattails to grow out of control. After this occurs the city uses a herbicide on the waterweeds. The waterweeds then soon die and fall to the bottom and decay. This process uses up all the dissolved oxygen in the water. This is what is killing the lake. This has been occurring for the past 15 years and will continue to happen until something is done to solve the problem.

Sediment, detritus and other decaying matter have begun to build up in the lake. The build up is so great that the water is becoming shallow. The deepest part of the lake is approximately 14 feet and the lake is as shallow as three feet in some places. The lake is filling up. This is called hypernutrification because it's happening so fast. Normally it would take 200 years that size to fill up or become a swamp. This has happened in a little over 30 years.

A study was conducted on the lake in 1985. It revealed that the lake contains over 35 pesticides including DDT and other synthetic pesticides, some which have been banned for over 20 years. The lake also has over 40 extractable chemicals and compounds, over 50 base neutral extractables and other dangerous substances.

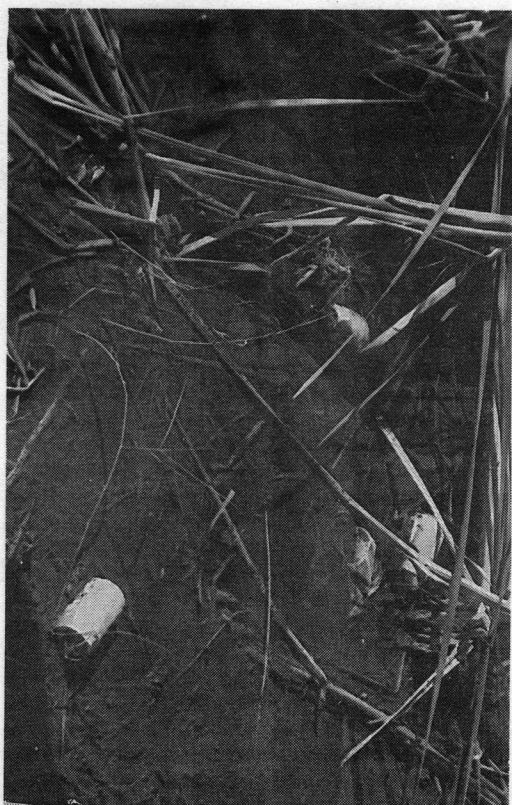
Some of the more dangerous compounds and chemicals include Mercury, Arsenic, Lead, Benzene, Chloroform, Carbon tetrachloride, Toluene, Xylene, Styrene and DDT.

Some people wonder where all of the pollution came from. Ken Yancy, a Nature Trail Park Ranger said, "In the northern part of Boyd Hill Nature Trail there used to be a landfill years ago. Eventually the chemicals and compounds worked their way into the lake." Some people believe that the chemicals washed into the lake from the dump that's adjacent to the lake. Maureen Blackwell, a local senior citizen who has lived near Lake Maggiore for 35 years said that, "The dump next to the lake is only supposed to be a

brush site, but it's not. The lake has changed so much over the years it's hard to believe that no one did anything to restore it."

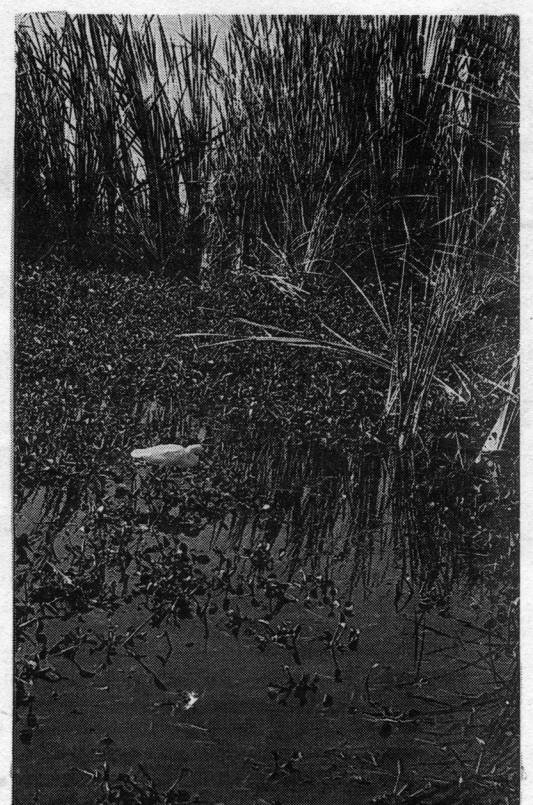
The Florida Water Management District of Pinellas county has Lake Maggiore as one of the most polluted lakes in the state and the most polluted in the county. The question is when will the city, county or state take any steps towards trying to save Lake Maggiore? If the city, county or state does take any action, what will they do and how will they go about doing it?

Candace Trapmann, a Park Ranger at Nature Trail said, "The newest study of Lake Maggiore's problems will be completed within a month or two." She also added, "The outlook on the lake's future is grim. The last estimate for clean up the lake was astronomical. It would cost millions of dollars per acre to clean up the lake." There are 375 acres in the lake. The problem is the lack of money. Every time the fauna blooms the city sprays herbicides making matters worse. Can the lake be saved? Will it become another swamp, landfill or a garbage dump? If the pollution continues to accumulate the EPA may have to quarantine the area. If nothing is done to help the lake then it is sure to die. When it dies it will have a great impact on the environment killing and destroying ecosystems, food chains, wildlife habitat and wildlife itself.



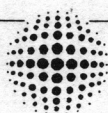
This is part of Lake Maggiore's shoreline, most of which is now sludge due to pollution and various types of dumping in the lake.

Centurion Photo-MARK SMITH



This part of the lake's shoreline is dominated by an over growth of water hyacinths and cattails.

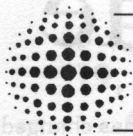
Centurion Photo-MARK SMITH



Dracula; the Prince of Darkness

Hard work and dedication paid off for the cast on November 21.

❖ The cast and crew worked hard to get their production of *Dracula* ready for opening night, with many long hours of rehearsals, memorizing, and stage directions.



by Julie Shook

Staff Writer

The auditorium was dark, on the stage there appeared a slender figure, behind her stood a completed set. She looked at her watch, "Let's get started, it's already after 2:45," shouted Rosemary Hanes. Four days a week the performers rehearsed for the school's production of *Dracula*.

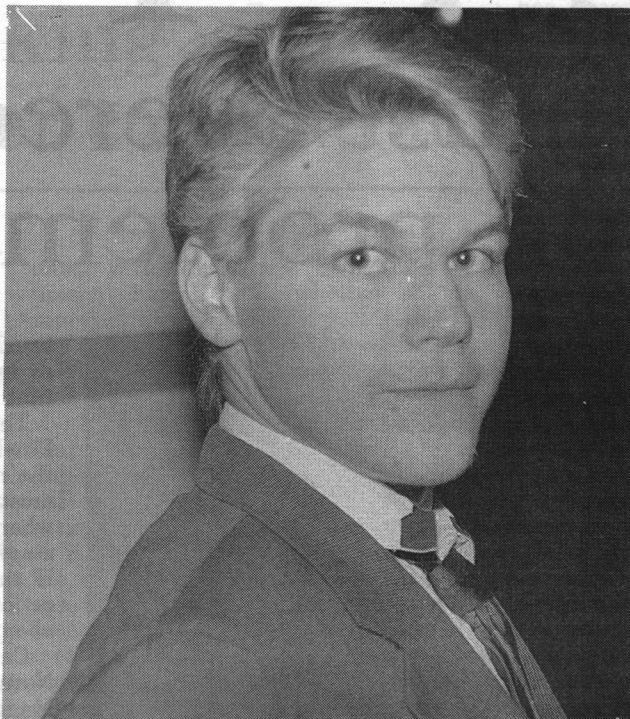
These students worked everyday after school on their lines, the sets, and the special effects for two to three hours. "The play started off slow at first, we had doubts about the play and about each other, but after all this we got together and buckled down so that we could make this the most totally awesome, doo-doo funk, radical, most coolest, play Lakewood will ever witness," said Leon Tucker, who portrayed Dracula in the school play.

The cast of *Dracula* came from completely different backgrounds, and had diverse personalities. However, this made no impact on them when they got on the stage to act. They all displayed respect for Hanes as well as for each other. The cast was always spirited and excited.

Hanes grabbed her papers and got situated on the edge of the stage. "Let's start with Act II," said Hanes. The lights were turned off by Veto Sheely, technician, and the performers took their places on the stage. The lights came back on and another rehearsal began.

All of the performers had their own way of acting. "I imitate the cocky attitude of the maid on *The Jeffersons*," said Latonya Hall, who portrayed the part of the maid. Junior Regan Garnett, who performed the part of Renfield, said, "I start acting really

crazy and think of the grossest thing possible, and then I become Renfield." The actors worked hard on memorizing their lines at home as well as at rehearsal. For the first few weeks the actors were allowed by Hanes to use



Jason Gumunski portrays Dr. Seward during the understudies performance at the Pier.

Centurian Photo - PAUL S. AMODEO

their scripts on stage but the week before the understudies performed Act II at the Pier they were asked to try rehearsing without their scripts.

"The play started off slow at first, we had doubts about the play and each other, but after all this we buckled down so that we can make this the most totally awesome, doo-doo funk, radical, most coolest play Lakewood will ever witness."

**-Leon Tucker
Dracula**

The eight understudies performed Act

II at the Pier in St. Petersburg on October 26. The understudies performed Act II to the enjoyment of the crowd, enhancing the spirit of the evening. "They were great, Renfield was scary to extremes, and when Dracula swept Lucy up into his cape I was so excited. I wish it hadn't ended there, I would have liked to see the whole thing," said Mary Potter, tourist from England. The understudies attended the same rehearsals as the regular actors did, and in case of an emergency the understudies had to be there to fill in for the regulars. This took a lot of dedication because the understudies did not get the chance to perform in the school play.

Paul Garnett Sr. constructed the flats and the props that were needed for the performance.

Around the fifth week of rehearsal the set crew and technical crew came to the rehearsals to help Garnett set up the stage for opening night. "Mr. Garnett is awesome, he has dedicated volunteer

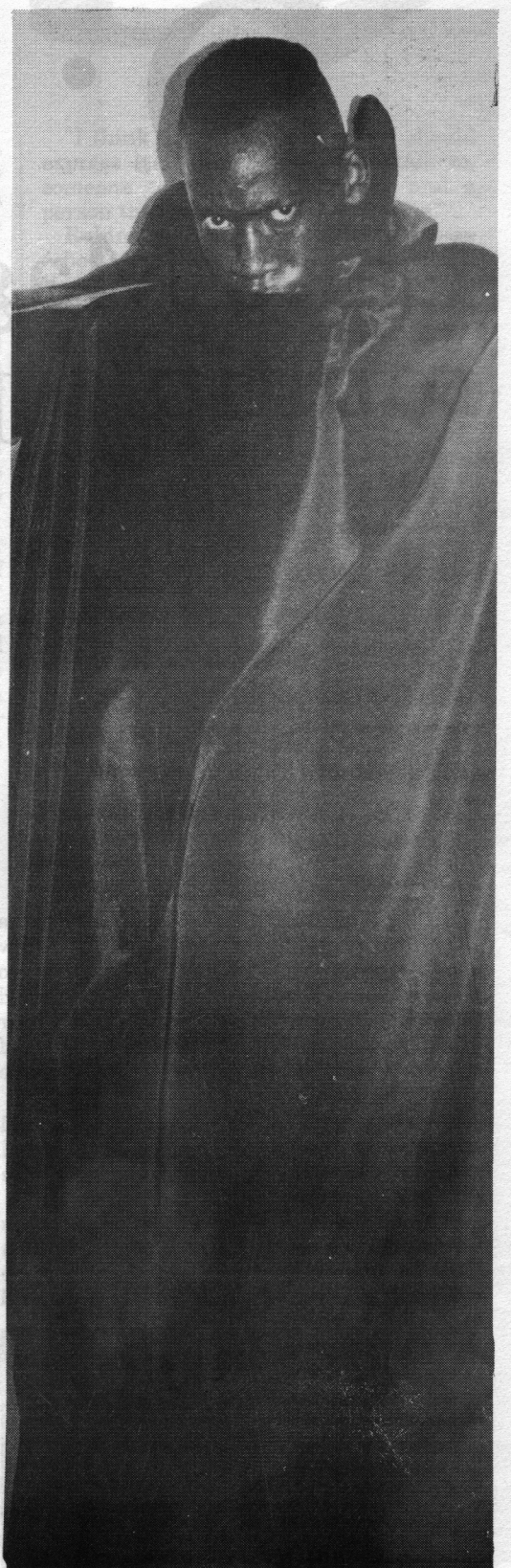
time to help us with this play, and I think he should be highly commended. I think Mr. Garnett is great," said Leon Tucker.

The actors all watched the video cassette tape of *Dracula* in order to get a feel of the setting of *Dracula* and the attitudes of their characters. Watching the video tape helped the actors to understand the emotions of the other characters.

The one unique thing about this group of actors is the fact that they all worked as a team. The night that the understudies performed at the Pier in St. Petersburg almost all of the regular cast came in order to show their support. This kind of cooperation is rarely seen because of the difference in attitudes and personalities between the actors.

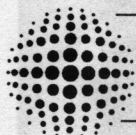
Garnett is also the cast's make-up artist. She enjoys doing the make-up and has gotten exceptionally good at it over the past few years. Regan Garnett learned how to do the make-up from her father, Paul Garnett who is artist.

On November 21, 1990 many hours of work was rewarded by a cheerful crowd.



Leon Tucker is the Prince of Darkness in the school's production of *Dracula*
Centurian Photo - PAUL S. AMODEO

❖ Spartones explain the fun and effort making the Spartones a successful music group.



by Holly Winthers

Staff Writer

Looking back at one of the funnier times being a Spartone, Jennifer Sweat remembers her shoe flying off during her first performance and having to wear one shoe through the rest of the

dance number while everyone laughed.

Each year the Spartones perform a Christmas program at a school assembly. They perform at nursing homes and other places that involve the community. They seem to enjoy entertaining a variety of people. "I come from a family of performers so I would say the want for me to perform is hereditary" said Dionne Laganowski, senior. Although there are many

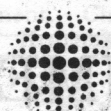
humorous times for the Spartones there is equally serious times as well "We all practice hard it's fun because we make it fun, but when it comes down to it we all make an effort to do the best we can," said Michelle Paolini, sophomore.

For years, the Spartones have traveled to other cities such as Dunedin to compete with other schools from all over the state. They take each new challenge in stride.

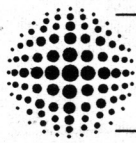
SPARTONES: Elite choral group enjoys entertaining others

DATES AND LOCATIONS

DEC. 9, 1990 St. Pete Hilton 4:00
DEC. 10, 1990 Sunny Shores 10:00
DEC. 11, 1990 St. Pete Yacht Club 1:30
DEC. 12, 1990 The Manor 7:00
DEC. 17, 1990 Blab T.V
DEC. 18, 1990 Winter Concert
APRIL 12-24, 1991 Nashville, Tenn.
MAY 14, 1991 Spring Concert



New Rating Causes **Real** Controversy



by Jason S. Guminski

— Staff Writer —

❖ With the formation of a new 'X' rating comes a whirlwind of debate. What is art, and what is pornography? And what happens when you define both for the public?

Only shortly after Nicephore Neipce created the camera, and took the world's first photograph in 1827, one of his assistants was arrested for selling the world's first pornographic photographs. It took a little over two weeks for pornography to enter the picture.

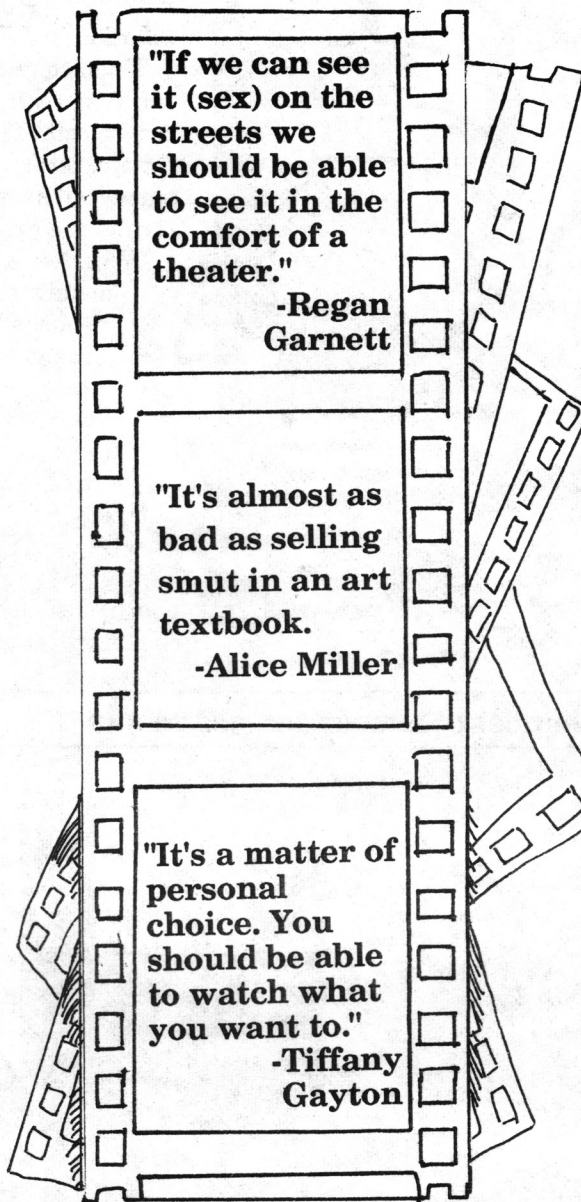
One hundred sixty-three years later, pornography is just about everywhere. Sex is in ads, billboards, magazines, television, the radio. Just about every aspect of your life is affected in some way, by sexual material. As times change, sex has become a more open subject, and the world has to change to accommodate its diminishing standards.

Sex has become an active ingredient in most television plots, as compared to the fifties, when married couples on prime time slept in separate beds. In the here and now, daytime television, such as soap operas, is almost as sexually explicit as the movies played in the late night slots.

Unlike television, movies receive a rating according to their content of violence, sexual content, subject maturity, and profanity. The least restrictive rating is a 'G' rating, which is open to all audiences. The most restrictive rating officially assigned was an 'R' rating, but now there exists a rating that does not admit anyone under 17. This is called NC-17 (No children under 17).

Movies, were being edited, due to strong violence (Robocop, for example) or sexuality, (as in the case of Wild Orchids) in order to meet rating standards. Then they would be released on video unedited. In a sense, robbing viewers of the total movie. For this reason primarily, movie producers as well as raters created a new, NC-17 rating.

NC-17 has replaced the 'X' rating in covering movies



that contain strong sexual content. In all actuality, there never was an 'X' rating, but movies that were definitely not for sale to minors due to their pornographic content were given a big 'X'. This became accepted as a rating, although no 'X' rated movies were accepted into major theaters.

The only catch is that NC-17 movies have to contain 'artistic quality'. NC-17 movies, although made with sexual intentions, cannot be straight sex, or just graphic sex scenes, or it doesn't fit the NC-17 category.

There are many reasons for the creation of a new rating; primarily because 'X' rated movies were not played in major theaters. 'X' rated filmmakers thought it was unfair that their movies could not be viewed except in adult theaters, or in the video market. And as it is, most counties, including Pinellas, don't allow video rental stores to rent truly explicit and graphic, or 'hard core' videos.

To save a step now the new rating allows these movies to be aired unedited under the NC-17 rating. The only catch is movies can't be just straight 'hard core' sexuality, they have to have artistic quality, otherwise they are simply pornography, and not admitted under the rating.

This seems like a good solution to the pornography problem, so why the debate? It all goes back to the art vs. porn controversy.

Art by definition is "the skillful arrangement of means for the attainment of some end, especially by human will, as opposed to natural endeavour." It is a rather vague definition, and it leaves room to fill. Pornography means "the expression of the obscene in speaking or writing". Nothing in the definition of art prevents pornography from being a form of art.

The controversy lies in people's definition of art. What is one man's obscenity is another man's beauty. No person could draw an exact line separating art from pornography, without disagreeing with someone's views.

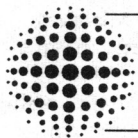
So far, only one movie has been released under the new rating, *Henry and June*. The greatest age group to attend the opening performance of *Henry and June* were people 21 and under. Some parents find this alarming, and feel that sexual material, no matter how explicit, or artistic should not be viewed by minors, let alone 17 year olds.

Obviously filmmakers disagree, and already two new movies, which are planned to be aired with the NC-17 rating, are in production.

Despite the disagreement over the rating, it appears to be here to stay, and out of the public's hand at present.

Overall Superior Rating

❖ The season is over and the students in the marching band have overcome dissension. In competition, the band has risen from placing third out of three bands to an overall superior rating at a recent contest.



by Jenna J. Kocic

— Staff Writer —

Time, a lot of hot air, and an unlimited supply of patience is what it takes to be in Lakewood's Spartan band. Time to come to practices five hours a week along with games and contests, hot air to play your instruments, and patience to hold your

temper through the everyday problems of band. A normal practice can be aggravating and unsuccessful. With some not even showing up, others who don't want to work, and few who cannot seem to get along with each other.

"The band's marching technique is pretty good, we could be number one, but not everybody is willing to work, not everybody comes to practice," said Monica Landers.

Even though practices can be quite stressful, it is all made up during performances.

"During performances we put out all that we can. A high percentage of the band cares about what they are doing," said Christine Buser, drum major.

The Spartan band placed third at the Seminole contest, second at Largo, received best drum major and an overall

"During performances we put out all that we can. A high percentage of the band cares about what they are doing."

-Christine Buser

rating of excellent at Clearwater contest, and at the most recent contest, they earned an overall rating of

superior.

"The have a self-esteem problem, for awhile there whatever they did, it wasn't good enough. A little bit of success always breeds success," said Robert Romeyn, band director.

Kifaru Williams wants to be in a college and is hoping for a scholarship. He says a band should be a big family, "a close net of people working together with what they have in common."

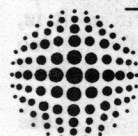
"People should respect and care about themselves so they could care and respect the band," said Buser. "There are problems, but none is so big that it can't be worked out."



Death penalty sparks electrifying debate

❖ Since the early 1930's capital punishment has been questioned.

Has it benefited our society? Is it unjust to take the life of another human being? These are the questions which are being asked in our society today.



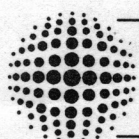
by Lori Klumpp and
Kristen Killenberg
Staff Writers

Adam stood in the doorway. As he looked across the room, he saw the 'monster' that would soon claim his life. He was pulled closer and closer to the 'monster'. Now he was being buckled in. He looked up at the man dressed in black and a tear ran down his cheek as he said his last sentence, "I don't want to die."

In the next room stood the family of the girl who was brutally raped and murdered. The mother breathed a

PRO

Equal justice demands equal punishment



by Lori Klumpp
Staff Writer

The death penalty is the most just punishment for those who kill. Every year, thousands of innocent lives are lost to homicides. The murderer, if ever found guilty, is rarely punished for the pain he has inflicted upon others.

This process is taking place everyday. Presently, there are about 2,200 men and women on death row. The prisons are becoming overcrowded and many charges are dropped to accommodate room for others. Sometimes, one must wait up to seven years during a series of trials to determine conviction and punishment for an offense. "I think capital punishment should be more strictly enforced in the United States because the jails are too overcrowded and those who kill or deeply humiliate should get ample punishment," said Kim Stover, a senior at Lakewood. The convicts who are let out are now free to be out on the streets again. Innocent lives are placed in jeopardy. The same crimes are often repeated and may even be more severe than the first, for the criminal may feel more daring and im-

sigh of relief and the father thought to himself, "At last our nightmare will end. He is finally where he belongs."

This family is not alone. This situation is occurring constantly around the world. So far, there are eight states which support capital punish-



ment. Florida is among them. Last year alone, there were 20,000 homicides in the U.S. Something must be done. However, is killing another human being really the solution?

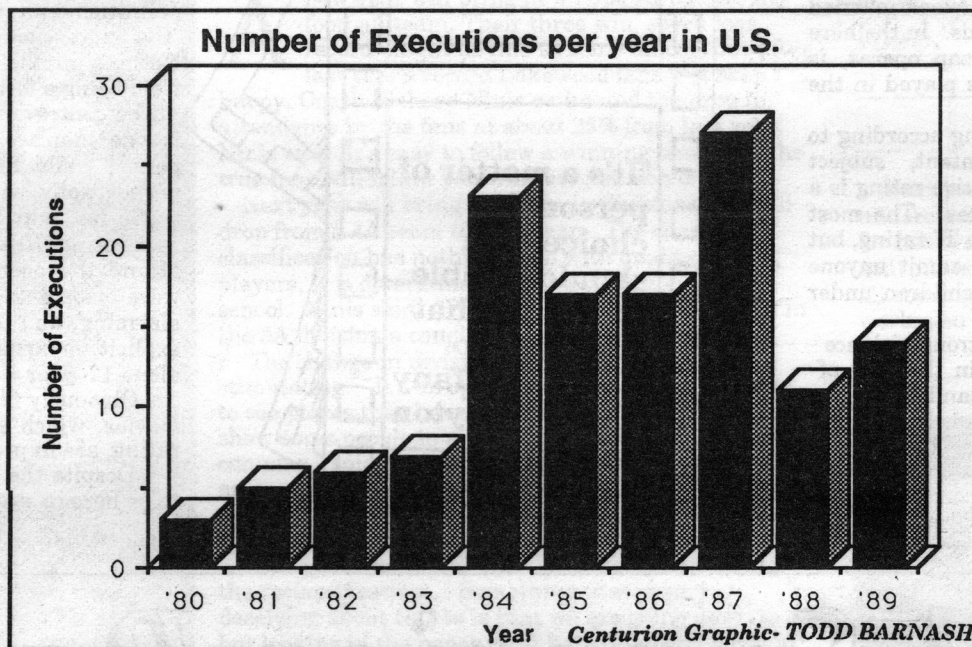
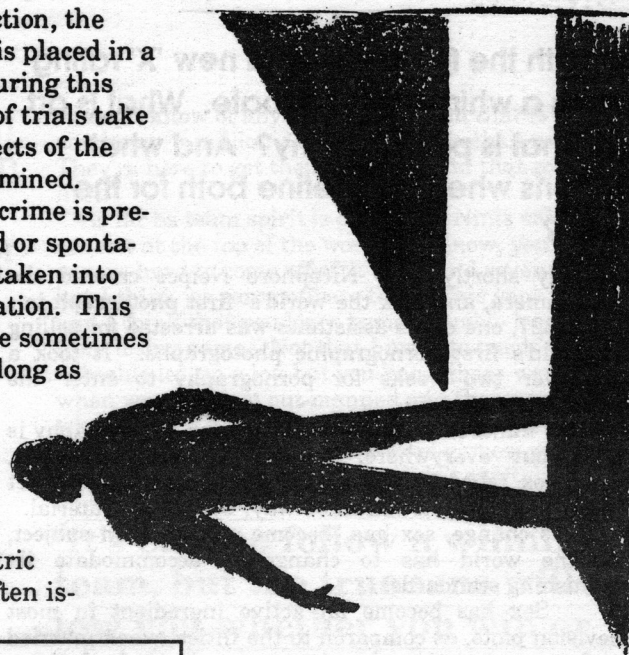
Upon conviction, the guilty person is placed in a prison cell. During this time, a series of trials take place. All aspects of the crime are examined.

Whether a crime is premeditated or spontaneous is taken into consideration. This procedure sometimes takes as long as

seven years. If the person is sentenced to death, the electric chair is most often is-

sued.

Since the first execution, many questions have arose. The following stories express the two conflicting views.

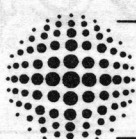


The death penalty warns others who may be contemplating a murder. Recent studies prove that each execution prevents seven or eight murders from occurring. "I feel the punishment should fit the crime," said sophomore, Michelle Paolini. "There are too many people out there who feel that it is worth killing someone because the punishment isn't severe." They might see the consequences and decide that it is not worth it.

If the guilty convict is retained in prison, then food and shelter must be provided. The taxpayers must pay to supply these for someone who may have killed a close friend or relative. "Having tried murder cases, I've seen how these victims have suffered. I feel capital punishment is warranted in certain cases," said Michael Schwartzberg, criminal defense lawyer.

About eighty percent of the population support capital punishment. "It helps us believe that we're extracting an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," said Mark Brown, Professor of Law at Stetson University.

The constitution outlaws cruel and unusual punishment, but it also insures the right to live in the pursuit of happiness. Equal justice requires equal punishment.



by Kristen Killenberg
Staff Writer

Two wrongs do not make a right. The decision to take away the life of a human being because that person committed a crime is completely unjustifiable. Capital Punishment is wrong and unfitting for our society. "Capital punishment was used in ancient cultures, in a civilized and advanced culture of our own it should not be a cornerstone of justice," said junior Lisa Rowe.

When a person is sentenced to death the government tries to make the whole process look very normal. Tom French, a reporter at the St. Petersburg Times, saw an execution and found the whole idea 'barbaric'. "The executor wears a black hood like in medieval times and is paid \$150 in cash. There were ads in the newspaper for someone to pull the switch. They were flooded with applications," said French. According to French they have a literal script. They actually go over the execution everyday for a month 'practicing'. They feel by doing this they are removing emotion from the setting. However, it is a very emotional setting. During the Bundy execution they had Bundy roasts, making the whole situ-

Centurion Artwork-ART DEPARTMENT

CON

Execution intolerable in civilized society

ation seem unimportant. This is totally wrong. The government has no right to take the life of a human being. There is no evidence showing the death penalty helps our society. For example, the United States has the death penalty, but still the highest crime rate in the world.

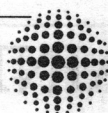
"When someone does something morally wrong, why turn around and do something morally wrong back at him?" said junior Amber Thames.

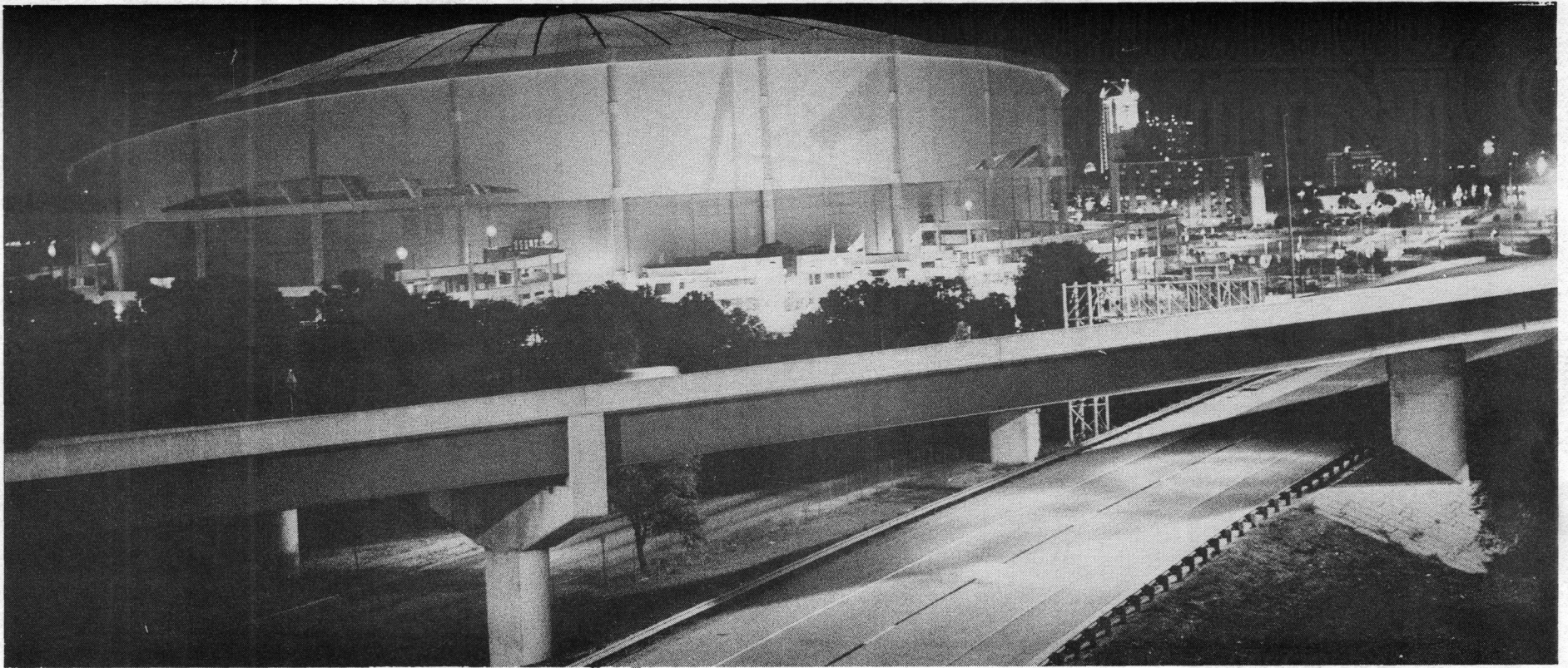
There is a lot of hypocrisy involved. "It's blood on all our hands. It's like whipping a child with a belt and then telling them not to hit anyone," said French.

There are also risks of a possible mistake. In several cases the death penalty had been imposed on someone who was later found innocent. "Mistakes are inevitable, a dead person can not be brought back to life," said Thames.

A lot of people feel it (capital punishment) is a discouragement from committing a crime. But the person committing the crime isn't going to be thinking of the punishment in the heat of an argument.

Capital punishment is immoral and uncivilized. "It is done professionally. It's a little like saying, 'Have a nice day' before killing them," said French.

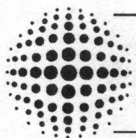




Centurion Photos - JOHN A. FIRMANI

DOWNTOWN REVIVAL

❖ As Downtown St. Petersburg prepares to receive a facelift from the Bay Plaza Companies, some are not sure if the renovation will positively affect the small businessman. Included in their revisions is the demolishing of many small shops and restaurants.



by John A. Firmani

Photo Editor

When one thinks of "downtown," images of rundown liquor stores, alleys, and bums in doorways may be the first things that come to mind. Of course, these things do exist, but there is a beautiful side to the southeastern end of the city.

Downtown St. Petersburg is receiving a face lift. Bay Plaza Companies of St. Petersburg has been putting up new buildings, and overhauling old ones in the nine-block area, as contracted by the city.

"We are rehabilitating, or rebuilding over a 1.4 million square feet of downtown," said Glen D. Harrell, General Manager of Bay Plaza in a recent phone interview.

To keep the new buildings in style with the older ones that are remaining, Harrell and other planners are keeping with the major design of bricks, and teal-and-peach coloring. "All of downtown will retain 'Mediterranean Revival,'" said Harrell.

The rebuilding of the nine block area will include the shopping, dining, and concert venue Jannus Landing in Phase-3, which is projected for 1995. This has worried some people about the destruction of small businesses and hurting the "little man" financially.

Robert F. McGinty, a former journalist, is now a small business owner who runs "McGinty's Newsstand"

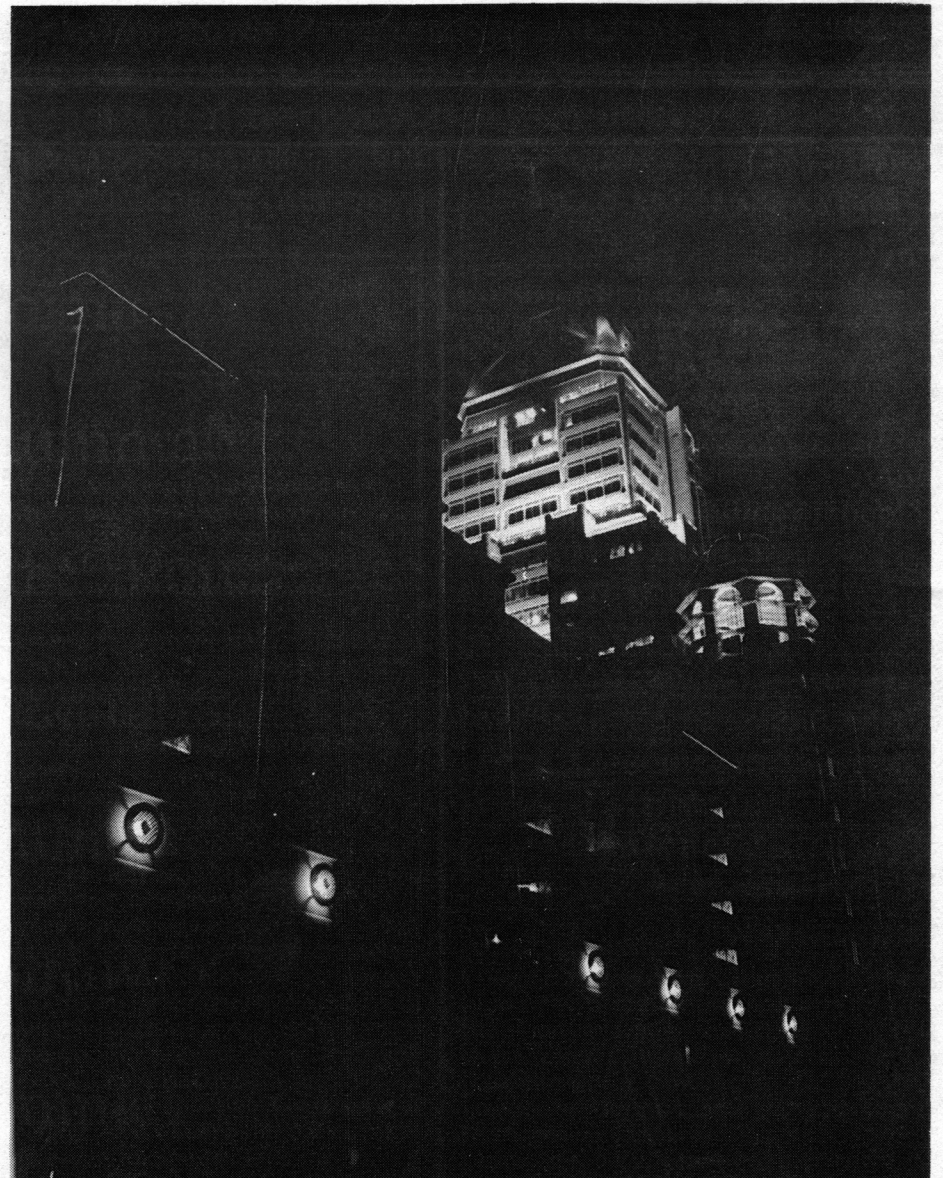
with his wife, Barbara. Their shops (they also own Suncoast Underwriters) occupy a section of the Jannus Landing block scheduled to be torn down. He has his doubts about the completion of the parking garage Bay Plaza is planning to take his space with, but is optimistic about the overall downtown development.

"Anything that brings people downtown helps our business. If they do get to developing this (area), we'll have to move the businesses somewhere else downtown."

**-Robert McGinty,
Owner, McGinty's
Newsstand**

"Anything that brings people downtown helps our business. If they do get to developing this (area), we'll have to move the businesses somewhere else downtown," said McGinty. "Twenty years ago downtown St. Pete was a busy area, but since then there has been urban decline, but that will happen in almost any industrial area."

Bay Plaza is cleaning up, and modernizing many areas, including the restaurants and curio shops of Jannus Landing, supposedly for the merchant's benefit. But whether the renovation will help or hinder the downtown economic flow remains to be seen.



Top: The Florida Suncoast Dome provides a scenic foreground for the bright city lights of downtown at night. The City Planning Council hopes to make downtown a "more active" sight with the Dome, and downtown redevelopment.

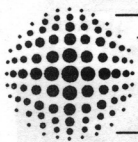
Above: The smoothly lined Bay Plaza building, now under construction, is in stark architectural contrast to the modern Barnett Tower. They stand next to each other downtown on Central Avenue.



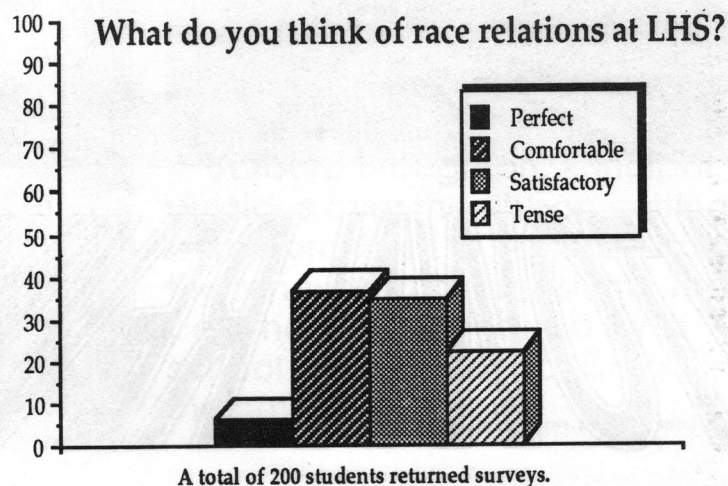
EBONY and IVORY

ARE WE LIVING IN PERFECT HARMONY?

❖ Drugs... Alcohol
...Peer Pressure.. all
of these things
affect a teenager's
life, but
one thing that
many may not
suspect is infecting
students right here
at Lakewood...is
racism.



by Rashida Clendening
—Managing Editor—



Centurion Graphic - TODD BARNASH

"There are two types of racism," said black senior Herb Morgan, "The type when people have little and almost no experience of interacting with people of different races and cultures...the other is when people are just being ignorant and using racism as an excuse." The examples above are two of the many types of racism. Others may be present in this community, but which ones are hidden in the halls of Lakewood High?

On this and other subjects students had much to say but were apprehensive to the idea of letting other students know their feelings.

"I'm not prejudiced," said Chris, a white junior, "but I think black people are prejudiced against us. Everybody is prejudiced against someone." He went on to comment on people in this community.

Has anything ever happened to you? "Yeah, walkin down the street and people say, 'You f***ing white boy!'" "How does this make you feel?" "I could care less." Another student overheard this conversation, Brent, a white male. He went on to tell his story.

"I was walking down 9th street," How old were you? "About eight... anyway I said 'Hi', and the guys gave each other a smile. They came up behind me, started pushing me, saying they were going to beat my ass. They hit me and then I ran to someone's house. Two older men picked me up, gave

me a ride, and called the police."

Although the majority of the surveys showed that students think the atmosphere is comfortable, most people spoken to think there is an underlying tenseness.

"I don't like them (race relations)," said a black junior, Chris Tyson, "I think there's problems because they're getting all the black people out of here... they (the school board) want Lakewood to be a white school."

But others see no real problems at Lakewood. A black senior, Java Brown, thinks race relations here are perfect. Brown is on the Bi-Racial Committee

"I think parents can be a very strong influence, negative or positive; we need to teach responsibility and respect to each other." - Barbara Broughton, Principal

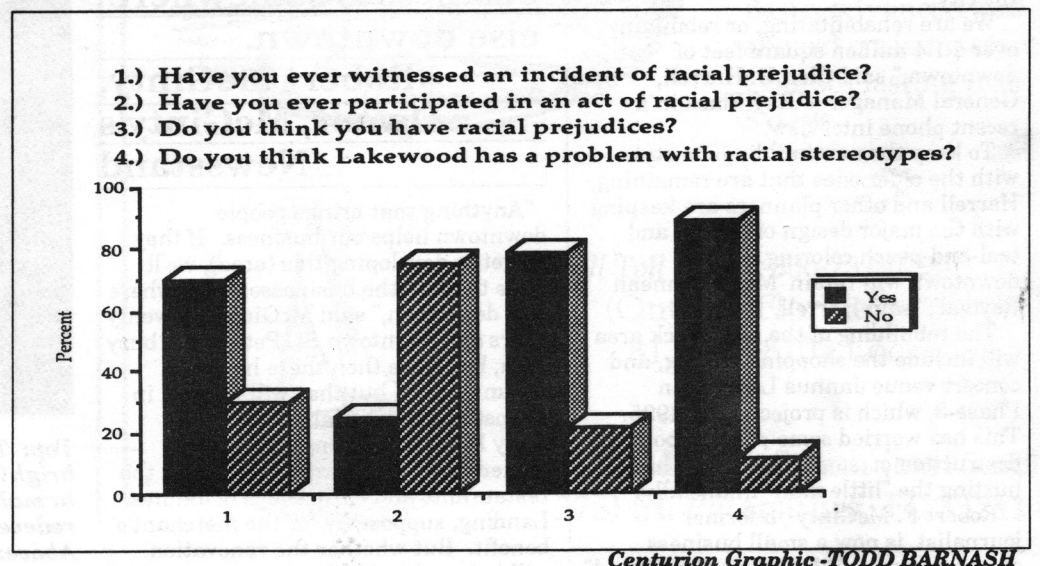
and says that no racial incidents have come up. Basically Brown thinks that prejudice is hate.

"It would be an insult to myself to be prejudiced because I have Black, White, Puerto Rican, and Indian in my family,

so to hate any race of people would be like hating a part of myself."

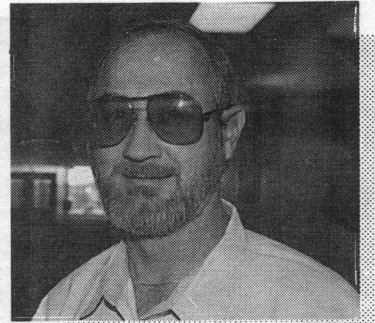
Another problem that may come from parents, society, school or friends is racial stereotypes. Brown concluded that some popular stereotypes are that white females are promiscuous, that all black students speak in slang terms, and that all white students are wealthy.

The opinions on this subject constantly vary but one survey taker decided to put an "X" through the whole thing and leave a reasoning at the top for all to read. "What a waste of time to worry about racism. There is none," said the unknown student, "we should be more concerned with the making of good grades...now that there is no racial prejudice. Was there ever any?"



Centurion Graphic - TODD BARNASH

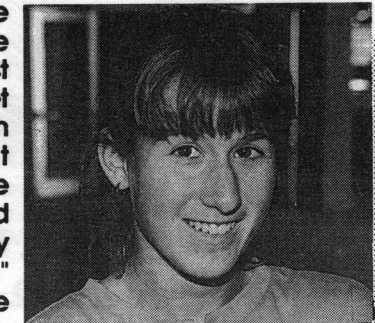
"I think there's problems on both sides, and I think there's a movement both ways. (As for students) Kids don't just dream up attitudes...there has to be a societal and parental responsibility." - William Heath, Junior Class Sponsor



"The relations aren't different than last year. Everybody still has tension between each other. We have to change because everyone has to learn from now because later on we're going to be working with one another." - Indira Evelyn, Junior



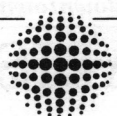
"I think they (race relations) are better than last year... I usually get along with everyone, I don't start things, some people go around saying things they shouldn't say." - Stephenie Anderson, Senior

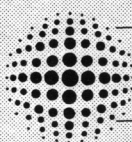


"I find no real conflict (in race relations at Lakewood) I see no real static between anyone. I think we are joining together instead of pulling apart." - Rodney Patterson, Senior



Centurion Photos - MARK SMITH





CENTURION

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Laura Petri
Emily Troiano

MANAGING EDITOR
Rashida Clendening

FRONT PAGE/PERSPECTIVE
Emily Troiano

IDIOSYNCRASY STAFF
Jonti Phillips

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SPORTS STAFF
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ARTIST
Jason Guminski

GRAPHICS DESIGNERS
Todd Barnash
Laura Petri
Rashida Clendening

ADVISOR
Mark W. Granning

CONSULTANT
Jeff Klinkenberg

The CENTURION, Lakewood High School's newsmagazine, will be published six times in the 1990-1991 school year by the journalism program at 1400 54th Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705. The CENTURION staff recognizes itself as an open forum and invites a free exchange of ideas from students, school personnel, and community. Obligations to our reader will be upheld. A factual, informative, and entertaining newsmagazine will be provided. First Amendment rights will be practiced. Advertising that advertises illegal products under the laws of Florida, opposes any religion, or is of any sensitive nature will not be accepted. Questions or Comment? Call (813) 864-3613 or (813) 867-3161 Ext 259

❖ You may not know their names, but the Bi-Racial Committee could mean an end to racial intolerance and violence.



EDITORIAL

Unfortunately school campus' aren't immune from society's racial prejudices. And because racism is such a sensitive topic, more often than not students and school personnel ignore the issue until something serious happens.

On the surface, Lakewood High School may appear to have solved its problems with racially motivated violence. Some even believe the problems ended with the school board's decision to strictly enforce the busing code. Others still see Lakewood as a ghetto school.. However, the jury is still out. In the past school year Lakewood has seen:

❖ A fight broke out between a white student and a black student after the white student is accused of calling the black student a nigger.

❖ The word spic is written across a student's locker.

❖ White students sitting in the audience of the student production of Dracula throw racial slurs about the play's male lead.

The community surrounding LHS is naturally integrated, but the school itself is not without its share of racial tension. Most of these disturbances are attributed to the acceptance of prejudicial attitudes on and around campus.

Sophomore, Nikki Belcher doesn't feel that LHS has a problem with racism. She said, "Lakewood is not as bad as some north county schools where there are rednecks who walk around with little stickers and signs advertising their prejudice." Belcher is

right. You can't see the bigotry, but you can hear it loud and clear in the racial slurs being thrown in the halls. No one takes notice because slurs are common gestures in the company of friends. Prejudice is as socially acceptable as pair of Air Jordans, but casual racism is the most potentially dangerous. Attitudes will never change unless we recognize the problem.

In an attempt to finally deal with the problem of racial violence, new Superintendent Dr. Hinesley decided to create the a bi-racial committee, to help promote racial harmony. This fall Pinellas County became the first Suncoast county to formally introduce a bi-racial student advisory committee at all middle

Bi-Racial Committee Members
Antonio Atwater (Black)
Jean Crepeau (Non-Black)
Trevor Mallory (Black)
Scott Mohn (Non-Black)
Deana McRae (Black)
Kari Goecker (Non-Black)
Java Brown (Black)
Monica Pentz (Non-Black)
Gerald Thomas (Black)
Josh Rubinsky (Non-Black)

schools and high schools.

Pinellas County School's Director of Community Services and Human Relation, Glenn Kranzow said, "It's very important for people of different cultures to understand each other. We have to work together and go to school together, and it's as much to solve our problems if we establish an atmosphere of equality."

Specific guidelines for the advisory group are still in the works. The principals were given leeway as to how the members

New Committee subdues racial tension at LHS

A Blessing In Disguise

were selected. The school board's only requirement is that each committee include 15 members: the principal; 2 parents, 1 black parent and 1 non-black parent; 2 teachers, 1 black and 1 non-black; 10 students, 5 blacks and 5 non-black students.

The committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month to share how their feelings about campus student relations. So far this year the committee has met twice. The first meetings were closed to the student body. The committee should consider making its meetings open to the entire student body, mainly because the issues being dealt with concern the entire student body. The committee is still young, however, and has a lot of room to grow.

Involving the entire student body would allow students to change racial attitudes. The policy also gives the school administration a chance to redeem themselves after their unpopular decision to issue a re-zoning code. A Bi-Racial committee finally allows students to change their school's image.

"The idea is that the problems in the student body will be dealt with by the student body, and not be overlooked by the administration," said Java Brown, member of the Bi-Racial Committee.

This much we can be sure of, Lakewood is not immune from the disease we call racism. The problem is real and Lakewood could definitely benefit from this blessing in disguise.



Centurion Art-JASON GUMINSKI

TO:
THE
EDITOR

Dear Students
The
Centurion
staff will run a
section called
Letters to the

Editor. If
There's some-
thing on your
mind, write it
don't say it.
Send all letters
to C-100.
Thank-you.

REMARKS by LEAH MCRAE

I-CON-O-CLAS-TIC

iconoclast- a person who seeks to overthrow popular or traditional ideas, beliefs, or practices

The first time I volunteered to work at a daycare center was the Halloween I looked after six, preschoolers while their parents were off doing Halloween things. I didn't figure this would be a very challenging task seeing as how I was barely out of diapers myself. So I rounded up the kids one by one. They followed me onto the playground, Halloween masks, candy bags, and all.

I surveyed the playground in search of a game that would keep everybody happy. I found a lonely bottle of magic bubbles sitting next to the sand pit. So the game we played was "pop the bubbles". I'd wave the magic wand to fill the air with bubbles and they would chase the floating spheres and pop each one inside their tiny hands. It wasn't a very difficult game, how much skill does busting bubbles take? But it does require that the kids try and share: Mission Impossible, but I was game so long as nobody got hurt. The kids ran around the play-

ground kicking up dust so high I could barely see my hand in front of my face. Then I saw two tiny hands reach up from the dust cloud and grab the bubbles right out of my hands. Standing in front of me, no more than two feet high was a little girl in a witch's costume, screaming Mine! Those are mine! Gimmie back my bubbles now!

The children's faces dropped like a ton of bricks. I wanted to snatch that little monster by the hair and MAKE HER SHARE, but she was right, the bubbles were hers. Unfortunately the rest of the children didn't share my anger. They walked in one direction and the little ghouls walked in the other, dragging her witch's broom behind her.

The saddest part for me was the realization that there's a little monster inside us all that's just as greedy as that little girl. What do you tell a five year old when they've just been denied their favorite toy? Sorry hun' that's life. Those with the best scam always win and the rest are left trailing in the dust. Nothing in life is fair not even on the playground.

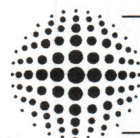




Looking for art and culture ?

The search leads to a triple threat in downtown St. Petersburg

❖ The Salvador Dali Museum, Great Explorations-The Hands On Museum, and the Fine Arts Museum are all unique and unusual. Anyone in search of art and culture can find it downtown.



by Laura S. Petri

— Editor-in-Chief —

Among the forgotten hotels, high-rise office buildings, and department stores of downtown St. Petersburg there are three museums that offer colorful cultural experiences. The Salvador Dali Museum, Great Explorations-the Hands On Museum, the Fine Arts Museum show the city their own, individual interpretations of art.

The Salvador Dali Museum celebrates the artist's life and his works. The Fine Arts Museum shares an array of works from various cultures and time periods. Great Explorations has innovative exhibits that educate as well as entertain people of all ages.

Salvador Dali Museum

Hosting the largest collection of Salvador Dali's works, the Salvador Dali Museum is located at 1000-3rd Street South. The museum opened on March 7, 1982. Entrance is \$2.50 for adults. The collection was begun in Ohio by A. Reynolds and R. Morse in an office building. The collection grew and, in 1980, St. Petersburg was chosen as the site for the museum to house the collection. "The collection was donated to the state of Florida. It (the collection) exposes the public to the world of Dali," said Georgia Parsons, Marketing and Public Relations Assistant for the Museum. The museum includes original paintings, water colors and drawings, objects, sculptures, photographs, legal documents, and a library of news articles and illustrations. Dali a surrealist, 1904-1989, was also an author, and commercial artist. During the summer the museum hosts "Dali Days". Classes, such as mask and jewelry making teach children Dali's ideas and methods.

Great Explorations

Great Explorations-the Hands On Museum, opened in November 1987, is located across the street from the Dali Museum. Unlike the Dali Museum, Great Explorations is a museum that encourages the physical involvement of the guests with the exhibits. The exhibits allow people to examine many facets of everyday life in a scientific way. The cost of admission is \$4.50 for adults, ages four to 14 are \$3.50, and children under four are free.

The exhibits are considered "involving art".

Great Explorations is filled with the hum of learning and is constantly in motion. Creating a rainbow, discovering your age in "health years", and a 90 foot long touch tunnel are all permanent exhibits. The purpose of the exhibits is to educate in an entertaining way. "My favorite exhibit is *Recollections*. It's a computer tracking screen that displays a person's shadow's movements," said Zach Bennett, senior. Bennett has worked at Great Explorations frequently since December of 1988. "I facilitate the exhibits for people and help make their visit easier," said Bennett.

Great Explorations also offers children's classes not only in the summer, but all year round. The museum also includes a "Hands On" room that is exclusively for children six and

"The museum was designed for families."

**-Zach Bennett
senior**

under. The room is filled with exhibits that are simpler in design. Children need adult supervision while they are in the room.

Fine Arts Museum

Peace and quiet fill the halls of the Museum of Fine Arts. The only hum heard there is that of the censor alarms in each gallery. Modeled after a Mediterranean villa, the museum is located at 255 Beach Drive Northeast. Filled with European, American, Pre-Columbian, Far-Eastern, and Ancient art the museum offers a kaleidoscope of art exposure.

Tours are given daily and there is a suggested 4 dollar gift donation instead of an admission fee.

The museum also hosts the "Art at Leisure" program. Created in 1981, the program allows people, without art background, to understand the history of art and artists. The monthly seminars are open to the public. November's seminar is "In Remembrance: Vincent 100th Anniversary" and December's is "Christmas in the Museum."

A montage of exhibits available at the Fine Arts, Dali, and Great Explorations Museums in St. Petersburg. Centurion Photo-JOHN FIRMANI

